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THE WORLD'S BEST
NEWS & FACTS
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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Making sense of the world



THE WEEK

Junior

THE BEST
MAGAZINE FOR
CURIOUS
KIDS



A LIFE IN NATURE

Find out about Jane Goodall, the famous scientist whose work with animals changed the world **p12**



This week's big news

DID YOU KNOW?

Among the Americans released, Paul Whelan was imprisoned the longest, spending 2,043 days in jail in Russia.



Evan Gershkovich (far left), Paul Whelan (second from right), and Alsu Kurmasheva (far right) on a plane after they were released

A newspaper celebrates

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

WSJ

The *Wall Street Journal* had been pressuring the US government to win reporter Evan Gershkovich's release since his arrest in 2023. When Gershkovich was freed, the newsroom erupted in applause, tears, and smiles. "I cannot even begin to describe the immense happiness and relief," said editor-in-chief Emma Tucker.

Prisoners released from Russia

On August 1, governments from multiple nations completed a historic prisoner swap. Sixteen people, including three Americans, who had been imprisoned by Russia and its ally Belarus were released in exchange for eight people who had been jailed in the US, Germany, Poland, Slovenia, and Norway. The agreement, which came after months of top-secret negotiations led by the US, was the most complex prisoner swap of its kind since the collapse of the Soviet Union (which Russia was part of) in 1991.

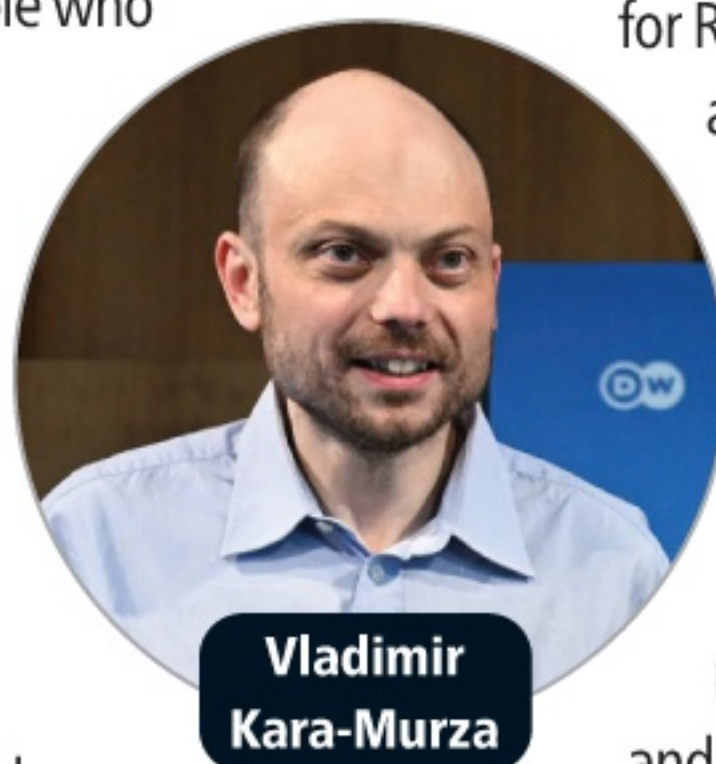
What is a prisoner swap?

A prisoner swap is when people who are in jail in one country are exchanged for people who are in jail in another country. The prisoners may be in jail fairly (they have committed crimes) or unfairly (they have been accused or convicted of crimes they didn't commit). The governments of the nations where the prisoners are being held make a deal with one another so the prisoners can be freed.

Who was released?

Russia freed three Americans, who the US said were falsely convicted of spying or other crimes against the Russian government. Paul Whelan,

age 54, a former US Marine, was arrested while attending a wedding in Russia in 2018. Evan Gershkovich, age 32, a *Wall Street Journal* reporter working in Russia, was arrested in 2023 and sentenced to 16 years in prison. Alsu Kurmasheva, age 47, an editor for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, was arrested in 2023. Russia also freed 13 Russians and Germans who were jailed for political reasons, including criticizing Russian President Vladimir Putin. One of them was the Russian human rights activist Vladimir Kara-Murza, age 42, who was sentenced to 25 years in prison. The eight prisoners freed by the US and its allies were spies and computer hackers working for Russia. They included Vadim Krasikov, a Russian who killed a Putin opponent in Germany in 2019.



Vladimir Kara-Murza

What happened?

In recent months, negotiations ramped up between Russia and the US, which have had a tense relationship for many years. Biden and officials in his administration also coordinated with Germany, Poland, Slovenia, and Norway, which were holding prisoners Russia wanted returned. For the exchange, all 24 of the prisoners were flown to an airport in Turkey, where their identities were verified by government

officials. The swap took place on the runway. The prisoners released by Russia were taken to a secure location to receive food and medical care. The Americans were flown back to the US that night, where they were greeted at Andrews military base in Maryland by President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris and reunited with their families. The 13 others were flown to Germany. The eight prisoners freed by the US and its allies were flown to Russia.

How did people react?

Gershkovich's family rejoiced at the news. "We have waited 491 days for Evan's release, and it's hard to describe what today feels like," they said. "They're free," Biden said, adding that, in the US, "we stand for freedom, for liberty, for justice—not only for our own people but for others as well. And that's why all Americans can take pride in what we've achieved today."

What will happen next?

The prisoners will return home to adjust to their freedom and restart their lives. Meanwhile, hundreds of people remain imprisoned in Russia, including Americans and Russian political activists and journalists. Biden said the US will continue working for the release of wrongfully detained Americans in Russia and around the world.



Election protests in Venezuela

Thousands of people were arrested in Venezuela for protesting the results of the presidential election on July 28. The current president, Nicolás Maduro, claimed victory, but some political experts said the results were fraudulent and that his opponent, Edmundo González, had actually won. As citizens took to the streets to protest Maduro, some world leaders refused to recognize his win.

Maduro first took office in 2013 and has tightly controlled the South American nation ever since. Under his leadership, the country's economy has suffered. Close to 82% of Venezuelans live in poverty, and at least 7 million people have left the country. Maduro has also imprisoned people for speaking out against him or his government.

On August 1, the US said it recognized González as the winner. Brazil, Mexico, and Colombia released a joint statement asking for the election results to be made public to verify Maduro's claim. Maduro has accused the US and other countries of meddling and instructed his government to continue arresting protesters.



Edmundo González



Tim Walz

ELECTION 2024

STATE CHAMPS

Tim Walz helped coach the Mankato West High School football team in Minnesota to its first state championship.

Democratic VP nominee chosen

Kamala Harris, the Democratic Party's nominee for US President, announced on August 6 that she has chosen Minnesota Governor Tim Walz as her Vice Presidential running mate. Harris, who is currently serving as Vice President, began campaigning for the Presidency in July after President Joe Biden stepped down from the race.

Walz, age 60, was born in Nebraska and grew up on his family's farm. After high school, he enlisted in the Army National Guard, serving for 24 years. He attended a state college and moved to Minnesota, where he spent 20 years as a high school teacher and football coach. He later earned a master's degree in educational leadership.

Walz was first elected to public office as a member of the US House of Representatives (one half of Congress, the branch of government that makes laws) in 2006 and served six two-year terms.

He was elected governor of Minnesota in 2018 and was re-elected for a second term in 2022.

Harris considered other potential running mates—including Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro and Mark Kelly, a US senator from Arizona—before choosing Walz. "As a governor, a coach, a teacher, and a veteran, he's delivered for working families like his," Harris said of Walz. "We are going to build a great partnership." Walz said, "It is the honor of a lifetime to join Kamala Harris in this campaign."

Harris and Walz made their first appearance together at a rally in Pennsylvania on August 6. Next, they will campaign across the US and attend the Democratic National Convention, set for August 19–22 in Chicago, Illinois. They will face Republicans Donald Trump and J.D. Vance in the election on November 5.



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

DIVING INTO KNITTING

UK diver Tom Daley has five Olympic medals—and he's a knitting champ. When he wasn't competing at the Paris Games, he was seen knitting in the stands. He took home a silver medal and also made a sweater in the colors of the French flag. "It's...fun to have this as a little bit of a memory," Daley said.



Tom Daley

GOLD-MEDAL MUFFINS

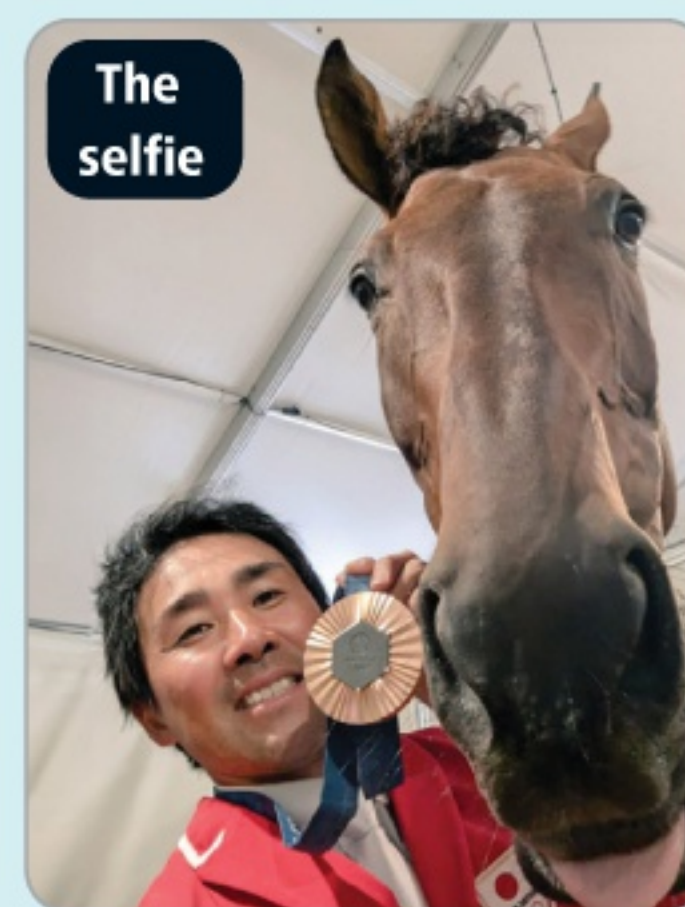
Millions of people have watched Olympic swimmer Henrik Christiansen's videos about the chocolate muffins served in the Olympic Village, where the athletes live during the Games. Christiansen, who is from Norway, said the "choccy" muffins, as he calls them, are "insane, 11/10."



Henrik Christiansen

TEAMWORK

After Yoshiaki Oiwa and Team Japan won bronze in a horseback riding event, Oiwa snapped a selfie with his horse, whose name is MGH Grafton Street. NBC reposted it with the caption "A man, a medal and his horse," while a fan commented, "Best selfie of the Olympics." It was Japan's first equestrian medal in 92 years.



The selfie





National news



The US Supreme Court
in Washington, DC

WOW!

The longest-serving US Supreme Court justice was William O. Douglas, who served from April 1939 to November 1975.



SCOTUS approval ratings

43%

Approval of the Supreme Court is at historically low levels. Gallup, a major polling organization, found in its latest survey that 43% of Americans approved of the way SCOTUS is handling its job and 52% disapproved. The ratings varied by party, with 66% of Republicans, 44% of independents, and 15% of Democrats saying they approve.

Biden calls for Supreme Court reform

On July 29, President Joe Biden called for major changes to the Supreme Court of the US (SCOTUS, America's most powerful court of law). He made the proposal in a speech at the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library in Austin, Texas.

What did Biden propose?

Currently, Supreme Court judges (called justices) serve for life or until they step down. Biden called on Congress (branch of government that makes laws) to pass legislation limiting justices' terms to 18 years. He also asked Congress to create enforceable rules governing ethics in justices' behavior, including requiring them to report gifts they receive, avoid public political activity, and withdraw from cases in which they or their spouses have conflicts of interest. In response

to a July 1 SCOTUS ruling that granted legal protection to Presidents, Biden also proposed an amendment (change) to the Constitution (highest US law) to ensure that former Presidents could be charged for crimes committed while in office.

Why is this significant?

Under Biden's plan, Presidents would appoint a new justice every two years. Elected officials and advocacy groups have called for such a change so that each President would have a fair chance to fill the court and SCOTUS would more closely represent the American people's wishes. The ethics rules are intended to address the fact that although there is a code of conduct for justices, it is currently not enforceable by any other branch of government (Congress or the President).

How did people react?

Advocates of court reform praised the proposal. "I thank President Biden for highlighting the Supreme Court's ethical crisis," said Dick Durbin, chair of the Judiciary Committee in the Senate (one half of Congress). Opponents, including Mike Johnson, the Speaker (leader) of the House of Representatives (other half of Congress), dismissed the proposal as a dangerous attempt to undermine the court's authority.

What will happen next?

Because Republicans in Congress, who control both the Senate and House of Representatives, oppose Biden's proposals, legislation on court reform is not likely to move forward during his Presidency, which will end in January 2025.



WORD OF THE WEEK

DOMINO

Today the word "domino" means a tile, but in the 1700s, it described a cloak worn at masked balls. Its origin is the Latin *dominus*, meaning "lord" or "master," because the cloaks were once worn by priests. When a game using dark-backed pieces began in the 1800s, it was named "dominoes" because the color of the pieces resembled that of the cloaks.



THE WEEK IN HISTORY

August 18, 1920

The 19th Amendment is ratified

On August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment, which grants women the right to vote in political elections, was ratified when Tennessee became the last state to vote in favor of it. The Senate had passed the 19th Amendment in 1919, but amendments to the Constitution require approval of three fourths of the states to become law. About 8 million women voted in the election later that year.

Celebrating
the vote



AMERICA



America250 leaders announced

Former Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama and former First Ladies Laura Bush and Michelle Obama have been named honorary co-chairs of the celebration of America's 250th anniversary. Congress created the organization America250 to plan events marking 250 years of independence in 2026. "This milestone is an opportunity to reflect on our history and recommit to our country's founding values," the Bushes said.



Katie Ledecky



Simone Biles

US women break Olympic records

Two of Team USA's top athletes, swimmer Katie Ledecky and gymnast Simone Biles, have set Olympic medal records with their performances at the Summer Games taking place in Paris, France. As swimming events came to a close, Ledecky held the most Olympic medals ever earned by a female swimmer or by a US woman. Biles won four medals to become the most decorated US gymnast in Olympic history.

Ledecky earned her 13th Olympic medal on August 1, as part of the US team that won silver in the 4x200 relay event. This broke the record for the most Olympic medals ever won by an American female athlete—or by any female swimmer in the history of the Olympics. Two days later, Ledecky added a 14th medal to her collection by placing first in the 800-meter freestyle. It was her ninth overall gold, breaking the records for the most gold medals earned by a US woman and by a female swimmer. Ledecky said, "It's an honor

to be up there with so many great athletes from over the years, and I never pictured myself being in this position."

Simone Biles won her eighth Olympic medal when the US women's gymnastics team took gold in the team competition on July 30. With that, Biles broke the record for the most Olympic medals earned by a US gymnast. Then, on August 1, she won gold in the women's gymnastics all-around final.

Suni Lee, another Team USA athlete, captured bronze. Biles also won the event in 2016, so she is the first American gymnast to win two gold medals in the all-around final.

At this year's Olympics, Biles also won gold medals in the women's team event and the vault and a silver medal in the floor exercise. She now has a total of 11 Olympic medals, including seven golds. "I accomplished... more than my wildest dreams, not just at this Olympics but in the sport," Biles said. (To read more about the results of the Paris Olympics, turn to page 18.)

ALL-STAR ACHIEVEMENT
US swimmer Michael Phelps has 28 Olympic medals, the highest number ever won by a single athlete.



Musician honored

Lawmakers announced that a statue of country music icon Johnny Cash (1932–2003) will be unveiled in the US Capitol's Emancipation Hall in Washington, DC, on September 24. Cash is the first professional musician to be honored with a statue in the Capitol. The 8-foot-tall sculpture (shown at left)—which will represent the state of Arkansas along with a statue of civil rights leader Daisy Bates—depicts the singer with a guitar and a Bible.



One of the chicks

Condors born at California zoo

On July 31, the Los Angeles Zoo announced the birth of 17 California condor chicks during the 2024 breeding season, a record number for the zoo. The California condor, North America's largest bird, was listed as endangered in 1967. Today there are about 560 condors, of which more than 200 live in captivity. The zoo will care for the chicks until they can be evaluated for release into the wild.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Playful pony found prancing down Delaware road" UPI





Around the world



United Kingdom

Plastic pollution declines on beaches

The number of plastic bags washing up on UK beaches has fallen by more than 80% over the past decade. The decrease is being attributed to a UK policy implemented in 2011 that charges an extra fee for single-use plastic bags in stores. Officials with the Marine Conservation Society, which runs a program that picks up beach waste, said they hope similar charges for other plastic products will lead to cleaner beaches throughout the UK.



Poland will grow more forests.



Warsaw, Poland

Community forests to be planted

The Polish government announced plans to plant "community forests." The forests will form "green rings" around 14 cities, including Warsaw, the capital. The leafy areas will bring the public closer to nature, foster outdoor recreation such as berry-picking and cycling, and help the government fulfill its promise to reduce logging (cutting down trees to use as wood). The project is expected to be completed by October.



Sheikh Hasina



Bangladesh

Leader flees country

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina fled Bangladesh after resigning from office on August 5. Since July, the country has been rocked by protests against a policy that limits the number of people who can get government jobs. Under pressure from protesters, President Mohammed Shahabuddin dissolved parliament (similar to the US Congress) to pave the way for new elections.



Reykjavík, Iceland

New president takes office

Halla Tómasdóttir was sworn in on August 1 as the new president of Iceland. She was elected in June with just over 34% of the vote. Although the role of president in Iceland is mostly ceremonial, Tómasdóttir said she would focus on issues such as tourism, artificial intelligence, and the effect of social media on mental health.



Halla Tómasdóttir



Kenya

Crows cause trouble

Kenya plans to eliminate 1 million Indian house crows by the end of the year. The crows are an invasive species (not native to an area) and have caused problems, including harming crops and attacking other birds and their eggs. Authorities have started poisoning crows in the towns of Watamu and Malindi. The goal of the program is to reduce the crows' rapidly growing population by half and stop them from reaching Nairobi, the nation's capital.



A house crow

GETTY IMAGES (6); NATURE PL; SHUTTERSTOCK (3)



Volodymyr Zelensky

Ukraine **Fighter jets arrive**

President Volodymyr Zelensky said Ukraine has received its first group of F-16 fighter jets. The planes, which can carry rockets, bombs, and missiles, will aid Ukraine in its war against Russia. Zelensky thanked the Netherlands, the US, and Denmark for sending the jets and said they represent a "new chapter" for Ukraine's military.



The migrant center

Shengjin, Albania **Italy to open center for migrants**

The Italian government plans to open the first of two centers in neighboring Albania for migrants (people who leave their country for a better life) and people seeking asylum (protection from another government). Each month, the center will house up to 3,000 men who have been rescued by Italian ships while attempting to reach Italy by sea. The project is controversial due to its cost and questions about the treatment of migrants.



Hot weather has hurt rice crops.

Japan **Rice levels lowest in 25 years**

Rice stockpiles in Japan have reached their lowest levels since 1999. Government officials blamed the low inventory of rice on unusually high temperatures last year, which hurt rice crops, as well as demand for rice from tourists visiting the country. Officials added, however, that despite the decline in rice production, Japan isn't facing rice shortages. The country also has emergency reserves of rice in storage.



A landslide in Kerala

Australia **Peanut allergy treatment begins**

Australia launched a new program to help babies with peanut allergies. The goal is to make them less allergic and lower the risk of an allergic reaction if exposed to the nuts. Under hospital supervision, the babies will receive small doses of peanut powder every day for two years so their bodies can adapt to it. One in 10 infants in Australia is diagnosed with food sensitivities.



Kerala, India **Rescue efforts underway**

Rescue workers have been searching for missing people after heavy rainfall led to landslides on July 30. More than 350 people have died. The army has evacuated survivors from the affected area and taken them to relief camps. Experts said rainfalls and landslides are becoming more frequent in Kerala due to climate change and the clearing of forests to build new tourist resorts.



The big debate

Has the condiment craze gone too far?

Some people love all those tasty toppings, but others say they're over the top.

What you need to know

- The dictionary defines a condiment as anything that enhances flavor, but many people say it's something that's added to food after it's cooked.
- Although classic condiments are ketchup, mayonnaise, and mustard, the category can include many sauces, seasonings, and spreads.
- Americans have spent \$30 billion on condiments and sauce this year.
- More than 14,000 new sauces and condiments were introduced in the US from 2017–2022, one source said.



Last year, a sriracha shortage caused a mad scramble for the popular hot sauce, driving the price of a \$5 bottle up to \$30 online. Consumers were willing to pay a premium because ketchup and mustard just aren't enough anymore. Today there's a topping for everything and everyone. Looking for barbecue sauce? There are hundreds to choose from. Bored of basic flavors? How about some banana sauce or lime pickle? Can't make up your mind? Try the Every Sauce, a mixture of 14 sauces in one. Some people say no to all this, though, because they think drowning a dish in condiments hides its true taste. What do you think? Has the condiment craze gone too far?

Yes—leave my food alone

Enough is enough! Just because people can think up an odd flavor doesn't mean they need to make a condiment out of it. What ever happened to letting food taste like food instead of the sauce it's smothered with? Plus, it's hard to finish every condiment you buy before it expires, so they often end up getting tossed, which is a waste of money and food. Many condiments are also unhealthy. They can be high in fat, salt, and sugar, which are leading causes of illnesses like heart disease. Instead, why not use that precious grocery budget and refrigerator space for some yummy whole foods like seasonal fruits and vegetables?

No—variety is a good thing

Why settle for ketchup, mayo, and mustard when you can get creative with artisanal aiolis, complex chutneys, and spicy chili sauces? That kind of variety lets you make bolder food choices and try out new cuisines. Besides, not all condiments are bad for you. Healthier options are out there, or you can easily make your own and enjoy them in moderation. An array of condiments can also be good for fussy eaters who are trying to incorporate more healthy foods into their diet. If there's a vegetable you don't care for when it's served plain, you can try topping it with different condiments. You might actually find you love it.

YES Three reasons why the condiment craze has gone too far

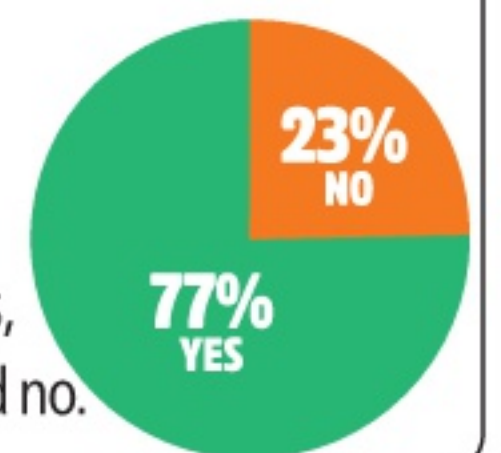
- 1 Condiments drown out the real taste of the food you're supposed to be eating.
- 2 Many condiments just get thrown out, which is expensive and contributes to the problem of food waste.
- 3 Many condiments are ultra-processed and high in salt, sugar, and fat, which isn't healthy for you.

NO Three reasons why the condiment craze has not gone too far

- 1 Condiments can bring out your creativity and broaden your culinary tastes.
- 2 There are plenty of healthy condiments you can buy or make—they can even be better for you than ketchup or mayo.
- 3 Healthy condiments make great toppings for foods you're not crazy about and might even help you enjoy them.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

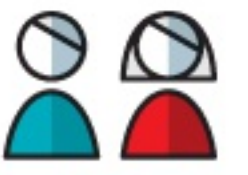
Last week, we asked if plastic water bottles should be banned. Most of you said it's time to lose the convenient containers: 77% said yes, and 23% said no.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think the condiment craze has gone too far or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.



Making art for the Earth

Sculptor Thomas Dambo continues his work turning trash into treasure.

Danish artist Thomas Dambo is well known as a sculptor who turns discarded materials into public art that blends with nature. Some of his most famous pieces are giant trolls made out of recycled resources placed in gardens and forests around the world. This year, Dambo is unveiling more than 20 new sculptures of trolls and others figures made from recycled materials in cities across the US.

Dambo, 45, grew up in Odense, Denmark. His father repaired bicycles, and his mother was a teacher and seamstress. As a child, Dambo enjoyed finding materials to make art. "You can build anything out of anything if you just create it," he said.

Dambo has been working full-time as a recycling artist and activist since 2011. One project that year was a giant cow made of milk crates. His creations, which

also include plastic art and birdhouses, have used up hundreds of tons of recycled materials and can now be found in 20 countries across five continents.

One of his newest projects, *Alexa's Elixir*, is a six-piece exhibition in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, that features five giant trolls made of 25 tons of scrap wood and a golden rabbit made from wiper blades and motorcycle helmets. The sculptures, 16 to 42 feet tall, were created with the help of 300 volunteers and are hidden in local parks for people to find.

Dambo hopes to place trolls in every US state to symbolize protection for forests. "The world is running out of resources and drowning in trash," he told *CBS This Morning*. "My art shows that these two problems are each other's solution." You can find the locations of Dambo's sculptures around the world by visiting trollmap.com.



One of the giant trolls



FUN FACT
It takes about 750 hours to sculpt each of Thomas Dambo's trolls from start to finish.

Thomas Dambo sculpting the golden rabbit

Jumping into music

Bob Beamon is a 77-year-old former track and field star who set a world record in the long jump when he was 22 years old at the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City, Mexico. The record stood for a historic 23 years. Now Beamon is sharing a different talent with the world. He is a percussionist with the B.O.N.E. Squad, a jazz and hip-hop band. He made his onstage debut playing bongos with the band in Connecticut in March. Reflecting on both music and athletics, Beamon said, "It's all about rhythm."



Bob Beamon



Ryan Seacrest

New gig for TV star

Television and radio personality Ryan Seacrest is the new host of the game show *Wheel of Fortune*, succeeding Pat Sajak, who retired in 2023 after a remarkable 41-year run. Seacrest, age 49, grew up in Atlanta, Georgia, and began his career in high school at a local radio station and gained national fame as host of *American Idol* in 2002. As the *Wheel of Fortune* host, Seacrest will explain the rules and lead the game while longtime co-host Vanna White turns letters on the puzzle board. He began taping episodes in July. On the first day of work, he said he was "spinning with excitement."

OVERHEARD



"Get up, get off the TikTok, work hard, find out how capable you are."

Tennis legend Serena Williams, age 42, who offered this advice to young people in her opening monologue as host of the 2024 ESPY Awards for Sports Excellence



Animals and the environment

DID YOU KNOW?

Anyone caught handing out banned plastic items in Vanuatu could be fined up to \$421.



The amount of plastic around Erakor Island has dropped.

Banning mini bottles

Starting in 2025, hotels in New York state will be required to use bottles that hold 12 ounces or more when providing personal care items such as shampoo, conditioner, and lotion in rooms. California and Washington have passed similar laws to prevent mini plastic bottles from going to waste.



Success with plastic ban in Pacific

The country of Vanuatu took action against pollution in 2018, banning certain types of single-use plastic. A recent report in *The Guardian* newspaper reveals that plastic pollution has fallen significantly since the ban was enacted.

Vanuatu is made up of more than 80 islands in the Pacific Ocean. Like many small island countries, it did not have enough facilities to recycle all the plastic packaging from the goods bought and sold there.

Meanwhile, ocean currents have often brought plastic trash from around the world into Pacific waters. Floating clusters of plastic that had gathered in the sea filled some of the country's lagoons

(areas of sea separated from the ocean by a reef), and residents struggled to remove them.

In 2018, authorities in Vanuatu introduced a ban on single-use plastic bags, plastic straws, and takeout boxes made from

polystyrene (a kind of lightweight plastic). In 2019, they added artificial flowers and single-use cutlery and plates to the list of banned items.

Now most customers carry reusable bags to stores. At outdoor events, food is often served wrapped in banana leaves rather than polystyrene boxes. New business opportunities have also sprung up due to the need to replace banned items. One example is a business called Mamma's Laef,

which makes reusable shopping bags and diapers. Owner Jack Kalsrap told *The Guardian*, "We're a small island state, so we know that pollution can really overwhelm us more than in other, bigger countries."

The banned items previously made up 35% of Vanuatu's waste, but now they account for less than 2% of its waste. Although the islands still have some plastic pollution, the situation is improving. For example, there is now much less plastic in the lagoon of Erakor Island, one of Vanuatu's most scenic natural places.

Not all single-use plastic is outlawed. Fish is still wrapped and transported in plastic packaging, for example, and people still use single-use plastic bottles. Next, the Vanuatu government plans to ban disposable diapers and introduce a system to recycle plastic bottles.



Food wrapped in a banana leaf



PLACE OF THE WEEK

Lassen Volcanic National Park, California

Lassen Volcanic National Park in northeastern California is known for its volcanic landscape featuring four types of volcanoes: plug dome, cinder cone, shield, and stratovolcano. It includes the world's largest plug dome volcano, reaching more than 10,000 feet high. Boiling hot pools and steam vents can be viewed from a safe distance. Visitors can also experience more than 100,000 acres of mountains, lakes, and meadows. About 300 animal species live at the park, including the Sierra Nevada red fox, the mountain chickadee, and the golden-mantled ground squirrel.



A golden-mantled ground squirrel



Indris are called singing lemurs.

GREAT AND SMALL

There are about 112 species of lemur, ranging from more than 2 feet long to the size of a mouse.



Lemurs reveal our rhythmic roots

A study of lemurs, a type of primate from the island country of Madagascar, in Africa, could offer important clues as to how humans evolved to create music.

Scientists studied how indris, a species known as "singing lemurs," communicate with one another. The animals live in small family groups in the rainforest and produce honk-like calls. These calls follow a steady beat, similar to the beat in human-made music. This is called isochrony.

Researchers observed that the indris sing when greeting each other, when they lose

sight of one another in the forest, or to alert family members to nearby predators. They also have loud singing battles with other groups of lemurs. Scientists say singing helps the animals bond with one another.

Dr. Chiara De Gregorio from the University of Warwick, in the UK, said the indris have a greater number of vocal rhythms than songbirds and other singing animals. Because both humans and lemurs use isochrony, the researchers think the origins of human music could have begun with our shared primate ancestors.

Animal of the week

Hellbender salamander



Experts caught hellbender salamanders and moved them downstream before demolishing a dam on the Watauga River in North Carolina. This kept the rare creatures safe during the dam removal, which will make the river healthier.

- **LIFE SPAN:** About 25 years in the wild
- **HABITAT:** Rivers and streams in the eastern US
- **SIZE:** 12 to 29 inches long, up to 5 pounds
- **DIET:** Crayfish, snakes, toads, and each other
- **FUN FACT:** Hellbender nicknames include "snot otter," "mud devil," and "lasagna lizard."



Good week / Bad week



A butterfly flight

A group of painted lady butterflies flew 2,600 miles nonstop across the Atlantic Ocean. The insects were found on a beach in French Guiana, South America, in 2013, and a study now confirms that they came from Europe or Africa.



White-tailed ptarmigan

Shorter winters and hotter summers are threatening the survival of white-tailed ptarmigans, small birds that live in the Pacific Northwest and overheat at about 70° F. The US government has now listed the birds as a threatened species.

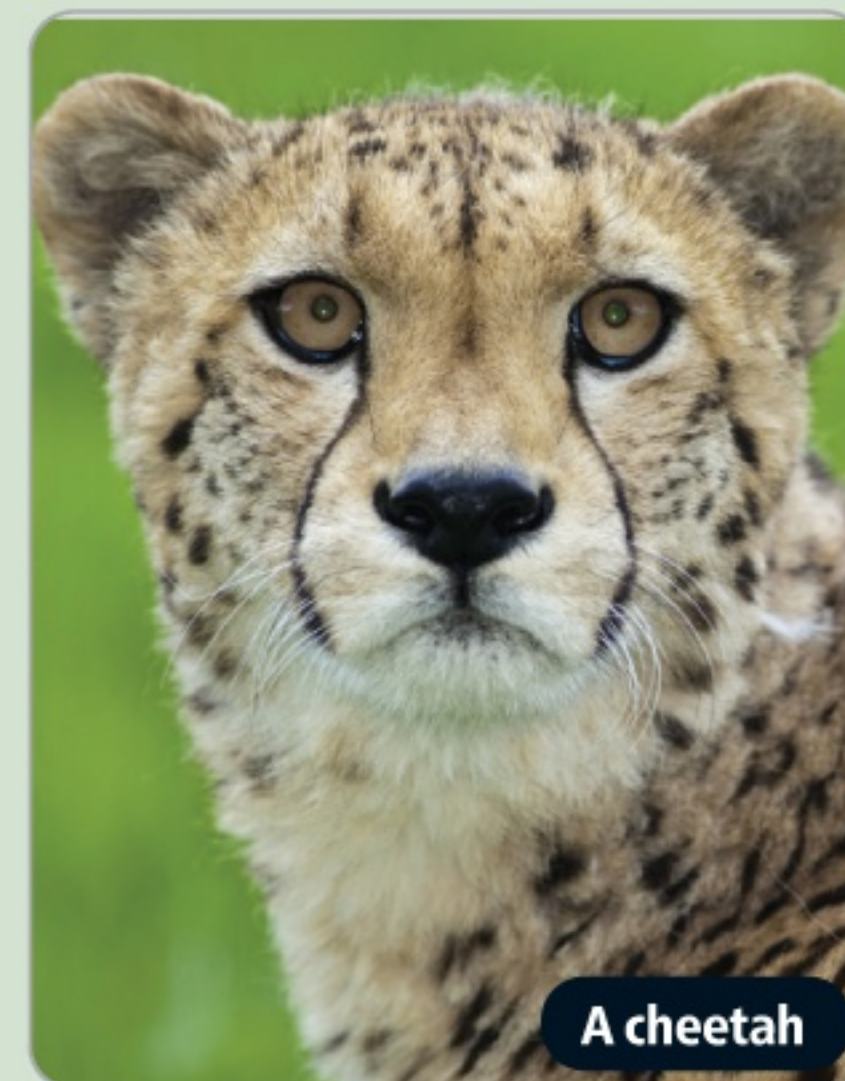


"Do cheetahs have eyelids, and, if so, do they have fur on them?" Quinn, 11, Virginia

Kerry Nicholson

Wildlife biologist, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Cheetahs have eyes like a house cat's, which do have fur on them. But what is really cool about cheetahs' eyes is the translucent third eyelid, called a nictitating membrane. It is there for protection and to keep moisture in the eye, particularly when they are running very fast.



A cheetah

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at adfg.alaska.gov.



All about Jane Goodall

She taught us about

The famous naturalist Jane Goodall has led her fascinating life in nature.

Jane Goodall, age 90, is a trailblazing animal behavior scientist and environmental activist. Her firsthand research on wild chimpanzees changed the world's understanding of them.



Young Jane

Early life

Jane Goodall was born Valerie Jane Morris-Goodall on April 3, 1934, in London, England. As a child, she brought earthworms into her bedroom, spent hours at her family's henhouse, and dreamed of one day living among animals. When she grew up, she worked as a secretary, waitress, and film production assistant to save money so she could visit Africa. At age 23, she was invited to a friend's family farm in Kenya. There she met a famous paleoanthropologist (a scientist who studies human evolution through fossils) named Louis Leakey, which changed her life.



David Greybeard

The Gombe years

Leakey believed that observing the behavior of wild chimpanzees could enhance our knowledge of human evolution and was looking for an animal lover to study them. After meeting Goodall, he thought she would be perfect for the role—and that her lack of scientific training would help her study the apes with a fresh mind. At age 26, Goodall arrived with her mother as her travel companion at what is now Gombe Stream National Park in Tanzania. For months, with a notebook and binoculars, Goodall walked all day in the deep jungle looking for chimps. She finally found a group of them and began observing them from a safe distance. Within a year, she had earned their trust to come closer. As she learned more about them, she gave them names, such as David Greybeard, Goliath, William, and Flo.



"Everything I learned about the chimpanzees was new and surprising, especially how like us they were," said Jane Goodall, shown here with infant chimp Flint in 1964. Goodall became famous for her close study of wild animals but later concluded that physical contact with them is inappropriate.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Jane Goodall Institute was founded in 1977 to carry her environmental work forward.

Her prized stuffed animals

Jane Goodall's love of wildlife—and stuffed animals—began at an early age. For her first birthday, her father gave her a stuffed chimpanzee named Jubilee. (Goodall still has the toy.) Many years later, in 1995, she received a letter from Gary Haun, a former US Marine who lost his eyesight in an accident and went on to become a skier, skydiver, and magician.

The next year, Goodall and Haun met. At that meeting, on her birthday, Haun gave her "Mr. H," a stuffed monkey, calling it a symbol of hope and perseverance. The toy has now accompanied Goodall to more than 60 countries. She also has Pigcasso, which is a likeness of a real South African pig that held a paintbrush in its mouth to make art; Rattie, named for an African pouched rat that could detect land mines; and an octopus inspired by the movie *My Octopus Teacher*.



animals in the wild

WOW!

The longest-running study of wild chimpanzees is the Gombe Stream Chimpanzee Reserve study, which Jane Goodall began in 1960.

FIRST FRIENDS

When she was a child, Jane Goodall had a dog, a pony, and a tortoise as pets.



With her mother



Groundbreaking work

Goodall's research in the field paid off. She found that chimpanzees made and used tools, contrary to the previous belief that only humans did. She also discovered that chimps had strong family bonds and ate meat. Leakey suggested that Goodall pursue a PhD (advanced degree) so scientists would take her discoveries seriously. In 1961, she entered the University of Cambridge in the UK as one of very few people without a college degree to ever be admitted. In 1965, she established the Gombe Stream Research Center for a new generation of students to study primates. Goodall was awarded her PhD in ethology (the science of animal behavior) in 1966 and spent the next two decades at Gombe.

As a UN Messenger of Peace



A lifelong activist

In 1986, Goodall's career took a new direction after she attended a conference where she learned about deforestation and its effect on wildlife. "I went to the conference as a scientist, and I left as an activist," she said. Since then, she has been working to save wildlife habitats, stop animal testing, and encourage other people to take action. She founded a youth conservation program called Roots & Shoots in 1991 that now operates in more than 60 countries. In 2002, she became a UN Messenger of Peace. She travels about 300 days a year to advocate for animals and the planet. She once said, "The least I can do is speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves."

Jane Goodall with her stuffed animals, including a monkey named Mr. H





SMALL ISLAND

Rapa Nui, which was named Easter Island by European explorers, is 14 miles long and 7 miles wide.

Moai statues along the coast of Rapa Nui island

Study questions Rapa Nui disaster

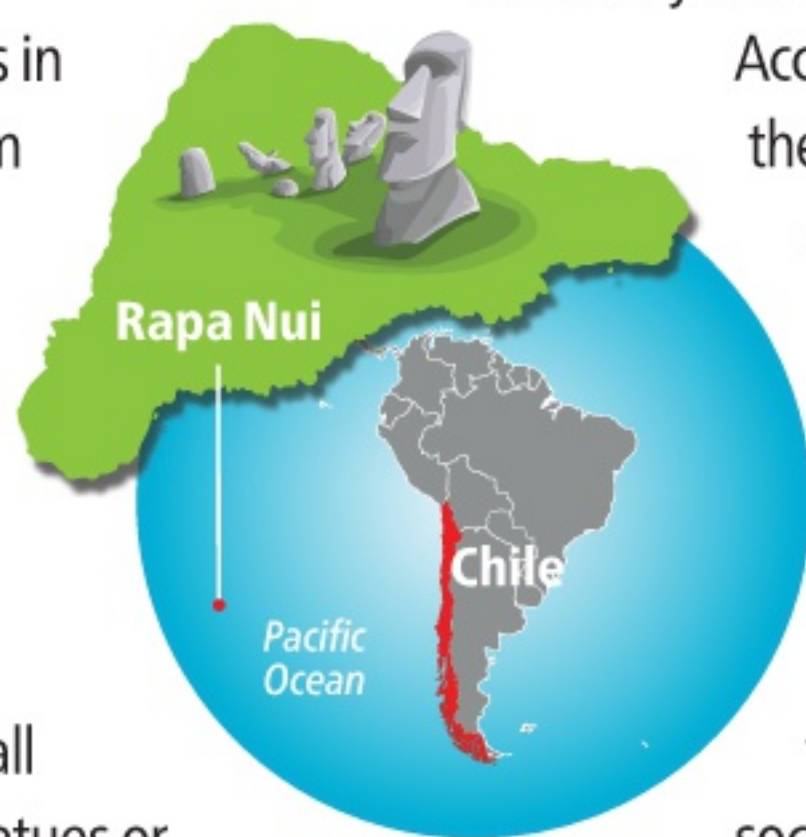
A new study has challenged a popular theory about the first people who lived on Rapa Nui, also known as Easter Island, more than 1,000 years ago. For many years, scientists believed that the earliest islanders caused their own downfall by destroying their environment. New research, however, found that a small number of islanders led a sustainable, stable life.

Rapa Nui, a territory of Chile, is in the Pacific Ocean, 2,200 miles from South America. One of Earth's most isolated places, it is famous for its massive moai statues (see box at right). In the early 1700s, European explorers arrived and found about 3,000 islanders. The explorers doubted that such a small population could have built the statues or survived on the tiny island, which had a harsh landscape and poor soil. So they assumed the population had been much bigger in the past.

For hundreds of years, scientists agreed with that theory and thought that as many as 17,000 people had once lived on Rapa Nui. This was based in large part on a belief that islanders had used as much as 19% of the land for "rock gardening." With this farming method, they scattered rocks and planted between them, protecting crops from the wind and weather. They

also added ground-up rocks to improve soil. The theory was that the islanders would have farmed that much only if they had a big population to feed.

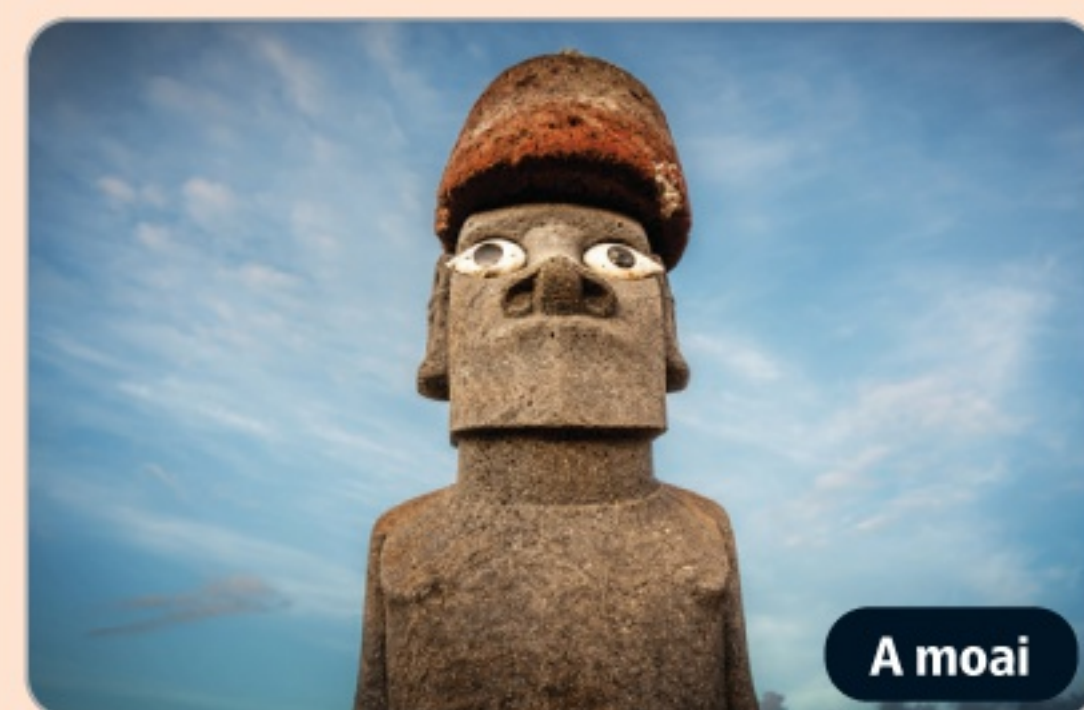
Scientists also believed it was this farming that led to the major decline in population by the time the Europeans arrived. They thought the islanders had depleted the land by cutting down too many trees and overfarming.



According to the new study, however, the population on Rapa Nui never collapsed because it was never that big to begin with. And rather than destroying their island, people had adapted to the land and were thriving. "The population present at European arrival wasn't the remnants of Rapa Nui society but was likely the society at its peak," said Dylan Davis, the study's lead author.

The researchers found evidence of this by reconsidering how much rock gardening had really taken place on Rapa Nui. Using artificial intelligence and satellite images of the island, they found that only .5% of the land had rock gardens, which would never have produced enough food for a large population. "The island couldn't have supported more than a few thousand people," Davis said. The team will study the data further to learn more about the people of Rapa Nui.

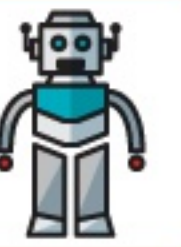
The mystery of the moai



A moai

The giant stone statues that Rapa Nui is famous for are called moai (pronounced moe-eye). Known for their huge heads, they were crafted from the rock of an extinct volcano (one that is unlikely to erupt again). Each one stood up to 33 feet tall and weighed nearly 25,000 pounds. More than 1,000 of the statues have been discovered, and many remain buried.

Experts think the inhabitants of Rapa Nui made the moai to hold the spirits of people who had lived before them. Some people have argued that a big population would have been needed to make and move the statues. However, researcher Dylan Davis told *The Guardian* newspaper that having people working together would have been more important than a huge workforce. "It just required cooperation," Davis said.



Scientists make smiling robot with artificial skin

Scientists have found a way to attach artificial skin to a robot so the skin moves better and looks more realistic—and the robot can even smile. The skin is cultured, which means it's made from real human skin tissue grown in a lab. It's capable of healing itself, like real skin does.

Shoji Takeuchi and his team at the University of Tokyo, in Japan, have been developing robotic skin for many years. They previously created a robotic finger covered with artificial skin that could heal itself. But that skin was attached by anchors or hooks, which limited its range of movement and could damage its surface.

To improve the connection between the skin and the robot,

the team was inspired by human ligaments (tissues that connect skin to underlying body tissue). Ligaments make people's movements, like facial expressions, possible.

To mimic (copy) the way real skin and ligaments connect, the researchers made small V-shaped holes in the robotic surface. They poured a special adhesive gel into the holes, which firmly bound the skin to the robot. The connection allowed the skin to move without tearing or coming off, then return to its original shape.

Takeuchi said this technology could be used in medical research and to help train surgeons. He will continue working to develop skin and robots that look even more natural.

FAST FACT
Skin, the largest organ in the human body, makes up about 10% to 15% of a person's body weight.



The artificial skin on a robot face



A rendering of the automated system

Japan plans huge cargo conveyor

Japan announced plans for an automated conveyor system that will carry goods 310 miles without any human intervention. The route will be constructed by 2034 and connect the cities of Tokyo and Osaka. The plans are meant to address a shortage of truck drivers.

In Japan, more than one in 10 people are at least 80 years old. With an aging population, there are fewer young people to take jobs like driving trucks. Meanwhile, more people are

shopping online, leading to an increased need for delivery workers.

The link would consist of a massive conveyor belt, like a baggage carousel in an airport, that would run along a highway or in a tunnel. Instead of going around in a loop, it would travel straight between cities, carrying loaded containers.

The conveyor would transport as much cargo per day as 25,000 trucks. Removing those trucks from the road would help reduce pollution.



Wheeled shoes for virtual gaming



The Freeaim VR Shoes

New "treadmill shoes" help people move around in a virtual reality (VR) game. When you play in VR, it's easy to turn your head or move your arms. But it's harder to walk around because you would have to walk in real life and could bump into furniture or walls.

The Freeaim VR Shoes are like roller skates, but the wheels move in all directions. When you take a step forward, you roll back toward your original position. This lets you "walk" without moving too far. You can also turn while standing or walking and step sideways.



Photos of the week

INSECT WEEK
PHOTOGRAPHY
COMPETITION
FINALISTS

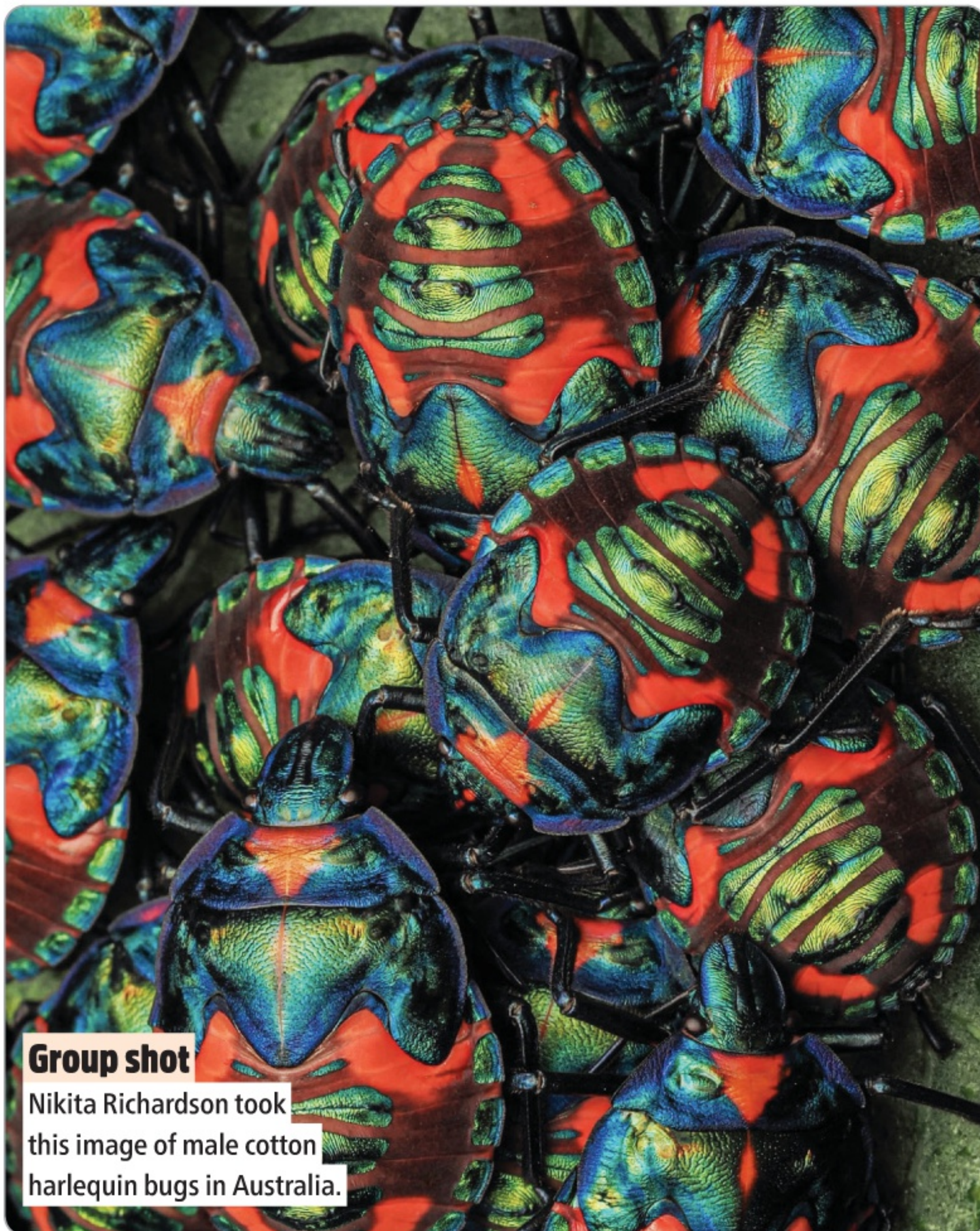


Peek a bug

This photo of a European mantis in Greece was taken by Panagiotis Dalagiorgos.

Twice as nice

Luke Chambers shot this picture of two cuckoo bees in the UK.



Group shot

Nikita Richardson took this image of male cotton harlequin bugs in Australia.





Work of art

This photograph of a Picasso bug was taken by Robin Backhouse.



Winging it

This photograph of a spoonwing was shot by Katarzyna Bukowska in Spain.

Staring contest

Pete Burford captured this up-close image of a damselfly in the UK.





FUN FACT
There are 594 athletes on Team USA, and they come from 46 different states.



The US women's 4x100-meter medley relay team

Historic moments at Paris Olympics

During the first full week of the Paris Olympics, world records were broken and several athletes made history for their countries. The US, China, and France are among the top medal winners, with Team USA earning medals in sports that include surfing, fencing, and golf. Here are some of the big moments so far.

TRACK AND FIELD

The events began on August 1, and the first US athlete to win a medal was Grant Fisher, whose strong finish in the men's 10,000-meter race earned him a bronze. In the past 56 years, only one other US man has earned a medal in that event. The men's and

women's 100-meter sprints were thrilling races. Julien Alfred of St. Lucia won the women's gold and her country's first-ever Olympic medal. Sha'Carri Richardson of Team USA took silver, and Melissa Jefferson of the US won bronze. The men's race was so close that the runners didn't know who won when it was over. A photo showed it was Noah Lyles of the US, who beat silver medalist Kishane Thompson of Jamaica by .005 of a second. Lyles was the first American to win the race since 2004. Team USA's Fred Kerley won the bronze. In the triple jump, Jasmine Moore of the US won bronze, the first medal ever for an American woman in that event. Another

highlight came when Team USA's Cole Hocker won the men's 1,500-meter race in an upset and Gabby Thomas then beat Alfred in the women's 200-meter race.

GYMNASTICS

Team USA's Simone Biles, Suni Lee, Jade Carey, and Jordan Chiles all won individual medals. Other stars included Brazil's Rebeca Andrade, who won silver in the all-around and vault and a gold on the floor, and Algeria's Kaylia Nemour, whose gold on the uneven bars made her the first gymnast from an African nation to win an Olympic medal. For the men, fan favorite Stephen Nedorosik of the US won a bronze medal on the pommel horse.

SWIMMING

The events ended on August 4 with two big victories for the US. Bobby Finke won the men's 1,500-meter freestyle race in world record time. It was the first individual gold for any male US swimmer at the Games. The US women's 4x100-meter medley relay team also won gold and set a

world record. Team USA won a total of eight swimming golds, one more than rival Australia. France's Léon Marchand, meanwhile, became one of four swimmers to ever win four individual golds at a single Olympic Games.

TENNIS

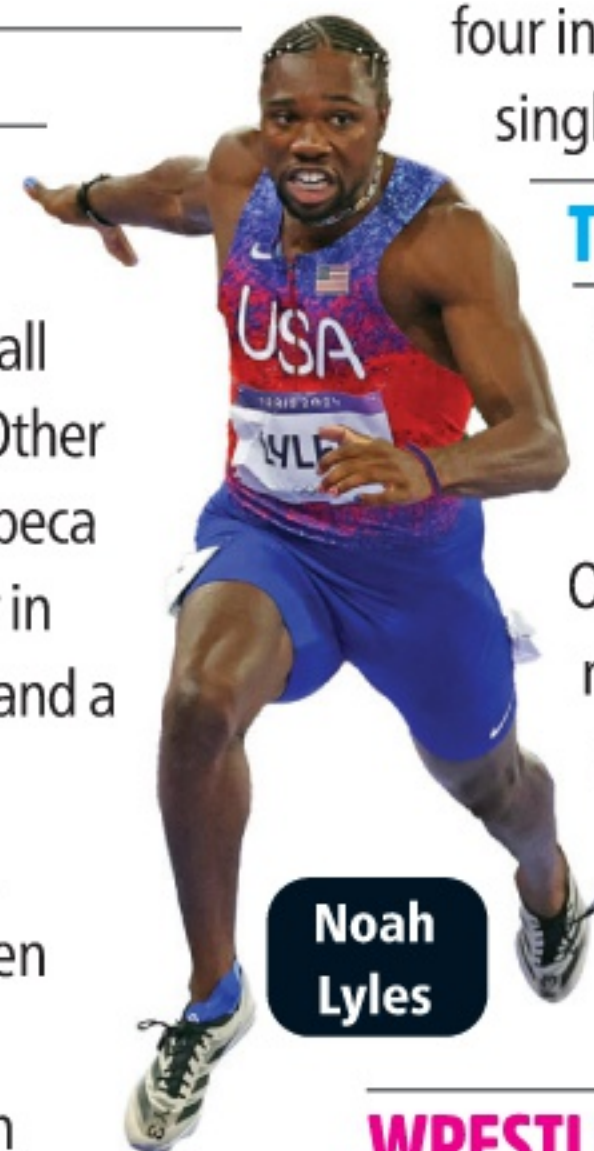
Serbia's Novak Djokovic, who has won 24 major tennis titles, got his first Olympic gold with a win in men's singles over young star Carlos Alcaraz of Spain. Team USA won silver and bronze in men's doubles.

WRESTLING

Team USA's Amit Elor, a 20-year-old who has not lost since 2019, won gold in the women's 68-kilogram freestyle.

CYCLING

One of the most unexpected gold medalists in Paris has been US road racer Kristen Faulkner, a former college rower who began cycling in 2017. She is the US national champion but came to Paris as a replacement for another cyclist. An American woman had not won the Olympic road race in 40 years.



Noah Lyles



Novak Djokovic



DID YOU KNOW?

Japan's national baseball team is known as Samurai Japan.



Players from the US and Japan at the Women's Baseball World Cup

Big event in women's baseball

From July 28 to August 3, six of the best women's baseball national teams competed in the last games of the 2024 Women's Baseball World Cup in Ontario, Canada. The US, ranked fourth in the world, made it to the World Championship Final, where they faced Japan, the top-ranked team and defending champions. Japan won, 11–6, to claim their seventh straight World Cup title.

The first Women's Baseball World Cup was held in 2004. It usually takes place every two years, but the most recent one was in 2018. The US won in 2004 and 2006, and Japan has won every World Cup since. The other countries in this year's finals were second-ranked Chinese Taipei, third-ranked Venezuela, fifth-ranked Mexico, and seventh-ranked Canada. The teams played each other once, and after four games, the US and

Japan were both undefeated and qualified for the final. Before advancing, they faced each other in a group stage game that the US won, 4–3, snapping a 39-game winning streak for Japan. It was their first World Cup defeat since the US beat them in a game in 2012.

By finishing the group play in first place, the US earned home team advantage for the gold medal game against Japan. It was scoreless until the top of the third, when Japan took a 4–0 lead. The US scored in the bottom of the inning, but by the end of the fourth, Japan was up 11–1. The US had multi-run rallies but couldn't fully close the gap.

Earlier, Canada beat Mexico, 4–2, to win the bronze. The tournament's Most Valuable Player was Japan's Miu Shiraishi, who had a .600 batting average and drove in eight runs.



COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Max Kafka**

Team: **Grappler Station (judo)**

"Sensei Max is a great coach! He helps us with anything we are doing wrong. He even devotes an entire week to reviewing for our belt tests! He encourages us to take on challenges, and he lets us practice our moves on him—and even lets us throw him. He runs a 'summer fitness challenge' where if you complete push-ups, sit-ups, and squats throughout summer, you get a T-shirt, and he's run fun classes for Mother's Day and Father's Day." Darren, 9, Minnesota



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to hello@theweekjunior.com. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



McKenna Davis

AGE: 21 SPORT: LACROSSE
TEAM: BOSTON COLLEGE

Family game My dad played college lacrosse, so when I was little, he put a stick in my hand right away. He also started a club program so I would have a team to play for while I was growing up. I really liked competing. It was fast-paced, and it was fun for me to be outdoors with my friends.

Training plan During the season, we're on the field six days a week. In the summer, getting a stick in my hand is really important, so I try to do that every day or every other day.

Regular rituals I'm very superstitious. I always have the same coffee order before a game, whether it's at noon or 7 p.m. I also listen to about the same 15 songs in the same order and do a specific workout with my athletic trainer. I have to put on my socks and uniform a specific way.

Keeping calm Mid-game or mid-practice, if I feel really stressed or can't focus, I'll squeeze my stick for three seconds, say to myself, "1-2-3, breathe out," and I feel so much better.

Big moment Both my mom and dad won national championships in college—my mom played soccer. It was something I really wanted to do, and my team did it this year. It felt like everything I'd been working toward came true.

Future goal Being part of Team USA is a huge goal. In June, I went to a USA Lacrosse training camp for sixes, the lacrosse game that will be played at the Olympics in 2028.

Good advice Make friendships and be competitive, but having fun is the biggest thing.





TOP TITLE
More than 300,000 copies of the novel *The Outsiders* are purchased each year.

Members of the Broadway cast of *The Outsiders*

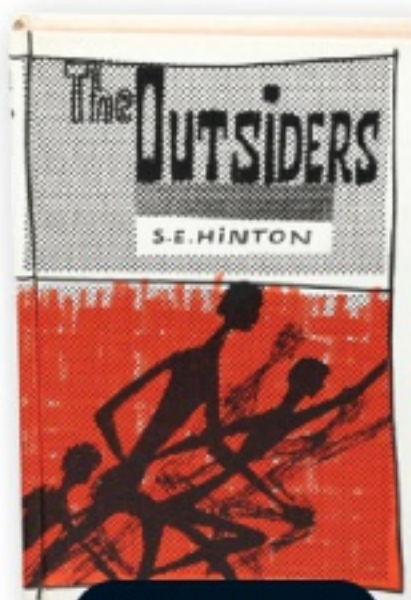
An award-winning musical

The Outsiders is a Broadway show based on S. E. Hinton's best-selling novel about teens in the 1960s.

For decades, *The Outsiders* by S. E. Hinton has been a popular book among middle school and high school students. It was turned into a movie in the 1980s, and now it's been reimaged as a stage musical. A Broadway show featuring folk-rock music opened in March, and in June it won four Tonys (top theater award), including ones for best new musical and best director. A national tour will begin in 2025.

The Outsiders is set in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1967. It revolves around two young best friends, Ponyboy Curtis and Johnny Cade, who are struggling to find their place in the world. The pair, along with their friends and

Ponyboy's brothers, live in a poor part of town and are known as Greasers. Their rivals are the wealthy Socs (a shortened version of Socials, pronounced soash-es). Sky Lakota-Lynch, who plays Johnny, told *The Week Junior* that the story "comes from a place of truth about what it's like to feel different than other people."



The novel

The musical's original score (music), orchestrations, choreography, and scenic design were among the production's 12 Tony nominations. It won the awards for sound design and lighting design, which are key elements in one of the big scenes, a three-minute-long, wordless, rain-filled fight between the Greasers and Socs.

Lakota-Lynch, who was one of the cast's three Tony-nominated actors, called his character a "very good listener" who "wears his heart on his sleeve." He said he was able to relate to Johnny through his own past experiences playing sports. "I was never the biggest or the strongest," he explained, "so I had to use my heart to fit in and use bravery to get by!"

He said he hopes audience members, no matter how old they are or where they come from, will relate to each character's struggles. "We have all felt like an outsider at some point in our lives," he said. The lesson in that, he added, is to "take it easy on those who are different from you. You never know what someone is going through."

3 facts about *The Outsiders*

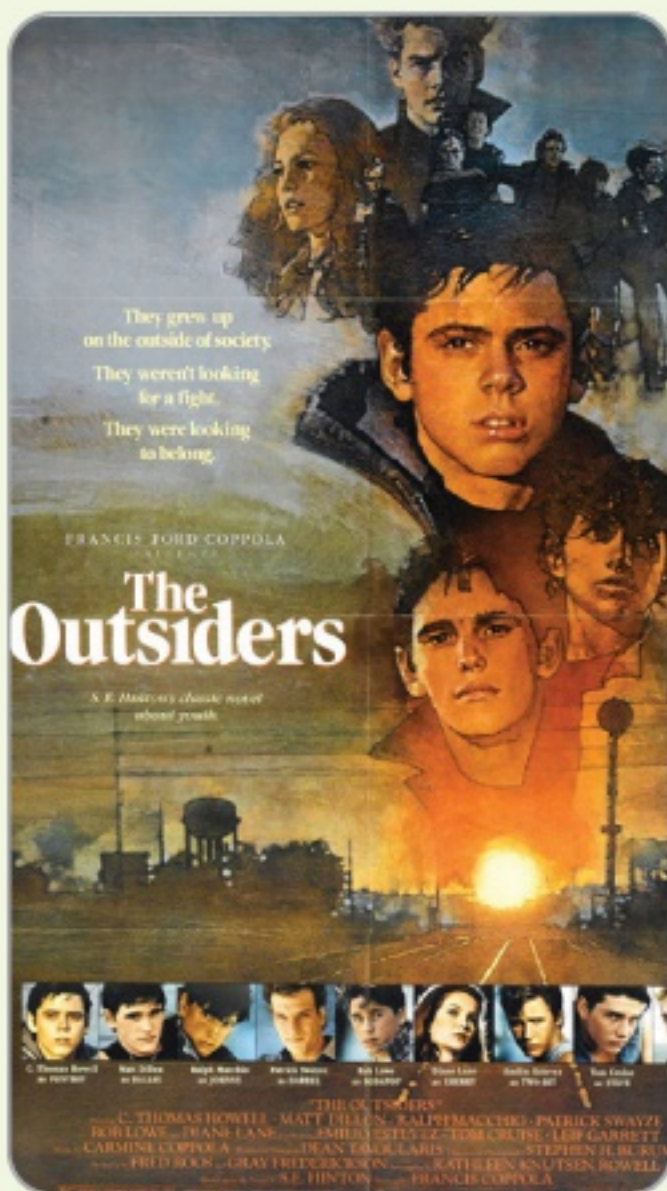
The author

S. E. Hinton (right), whose full name is Susan Eloise Hinton, is from Tulsa, Oklahoma and started writing *The Outsiders* at age 15. It has sold more than 15 million copies.



Big-screen adaptation

A film version of the book came out in 1983. The idea to turn it into a movie came from a librarian and 104 students from a California middle school, who sent a petition to director Francis Ford Coppola in 1980.



Museum

In 2016, hip-hop artist and *Outsiders* fan Danny Boy O'Connor bought a house in Tulsa that was used as the Curtis brothers' home in the film. It has been transformed into a museum filled with photos and artifacts related to the production.



CLEVER SWIMMERS

Squirrels can swim underwater, using their tails to steer.



Saving Bikini Bottom: The Sandy Cheeks Movie

New film stars SpongeBob pal

This year is the 25th anniversary of *SpongeBob SquarePants*. As part of the celebration, one of the series' beloved characters, squirrel Sandy Cheeks, was given her own film. *Saving Bikini Bottom: The Sandy Cheeks Movie*, which mixes animation and live-action, is now on Netflix.

Sandy, a marine biologist who does karate, has been a *SpongeBob* fan favorite since the show began. She is from Texas but lives in the underwater city of Bikini Bottom. In the film, trouble arises when the lab where Sandy works pulls the city from the ocean, and the evil boss plans to turn Sandy's friends into toys.

To stop her, Sandy and SpongeBob seek help from Sandy's family in Texas. While the underwater scenes are animated, the ones on land have real people and locations. During filming, Santa Fe, New Mexico, was used as a stand-in for Texas.



Carolyn Lawrence

Carolyn Lawrence, who has been the voice of Sandy since 1999, told *The Week Junior* that viewers will see the squirrel "step into full hero mode." However, *Saving Bikini Bottom*'s main themes relate to home and family, and being able to count on loved ones. "You can have people in your family that annoy you," Lawrence said, naming Sandy's brother Randy as an example. "But they will always be there when truly needed." Lawrence said she loved seeing Sandy in the spotlight and exploring her backstory, which includes the revelation that Sandy is from a circus family.

Lawrence told *The Week Junior* that *Saving Bikini Bottom* shows off her character's fierceness, loyalty, and independence. And Sandy's adventure has an inspiring takeaway, too: "You can do things that you don't know you can do," she said.



THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



Tales of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (Paramount+)

This new show is a follow-up to *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem*. As Leo, Raph, Donnie, and Mikey juggle protecting the city and teen life, they meet someone who wants to be a mutant and an inventor who wants them gone.



Omnivore (Apple TV+)

René Redzepi, the chef and co-owner at the world-famous restaurant Noma in Copenhagen, Denmark, hosts this new series. It explores how food resources shape societies around the globe. Each episode focuses on one subject, such as rice, bananas, or pigs.



Inside the Mind of a Dog (Netflix)

Discover the fascinating inner world of dogs in this new documentary. You'll learn how they smell in color, have unique paw prints, and can sense humans' moods. The show also examines dogs' 16 facial expressions, the deep human-canine bond, and the vital role of service dogs.



READER RECOMMENDS



Alexa & Katie (Netflix)

"This is a funny series, and it showcases real-world problems. Alexa and Katie are best friends. Alexa was diagnosed with cancer at age 14, and the girls stayed close through her illness. The series goes from their freshman year of high school to their senior year. In season two, Katie wants to go on a school trip to London, but it's too expensive. So she gets a job at a coffee shop. After she breaks the espresso machine, she has to pay to get it fixed. Katie keeps it a secret from Alexa, but Alexa finds out and helps her. If you love dramatic and emotional TV shows, this is for you!" Whitney Reese, 11, Washington

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



On screen

SACRED FLOWER

Lotus flowers grow out of muddy water and are often seen as a symbol of purity.



Bō: Path of the Teal Lotus

Game based on Japanese folklore

Bō: Path of the Teal Lotus is a new action-adventure platform game. It is out now for the Nintendo Switch, PlayStation systems, Xbox platforms, and PC.

Inspired by Japanese folklore, Path of the Teal Lotus sends gamers through old cities and beautiful, haunted forests to fulfill a prophecy (prediction) and defeat a giant monster. Bō is a Tentaihana, a mystical fox-like creature. The character was invented for the game, but it is an example of the spirit creatures, known as yokai, that have been part of Japanese stories for centuries and fill the game's world.

Bō's job is to help bring three members of the Usagi Clan to the rest of their family, who live in the Crimson Bamboo Forest. Gamers will grow close to a two-headed bird named Tori, who acts as a guide of sorts, and Rozu, a charming rabbit-like spirit of the Usagi Clan.



Bō's main weapon is a bō staff, and when the Tentaihana brews and drinks different teas, the staff can transform and gain new powers. Tea also refills Bō's energy and health, which is important because combat in the game is tough. Bō faces vicious creatures and monsters, and players need to learn complicated combos to take them down. Collectible Daruma dolls (traditional Japanese wishing dolls) and Omamori (good luck charms) can cast

spells and upgrade Bō's fighting ability in a boss battle. The fights are fast, frequent, and key to completing the game's missions.

Bō: Path of the Teal Lotus is a beautiful game to watch unfold. The scenery looks like old Japanese paintings, and locations are filled with magical moments and bits of wonder. Getting lost in the forest can be quite relaxing, so even if it takes a while to advance, it's still an enjoyable journey.



PODCAST OF THE WEEK

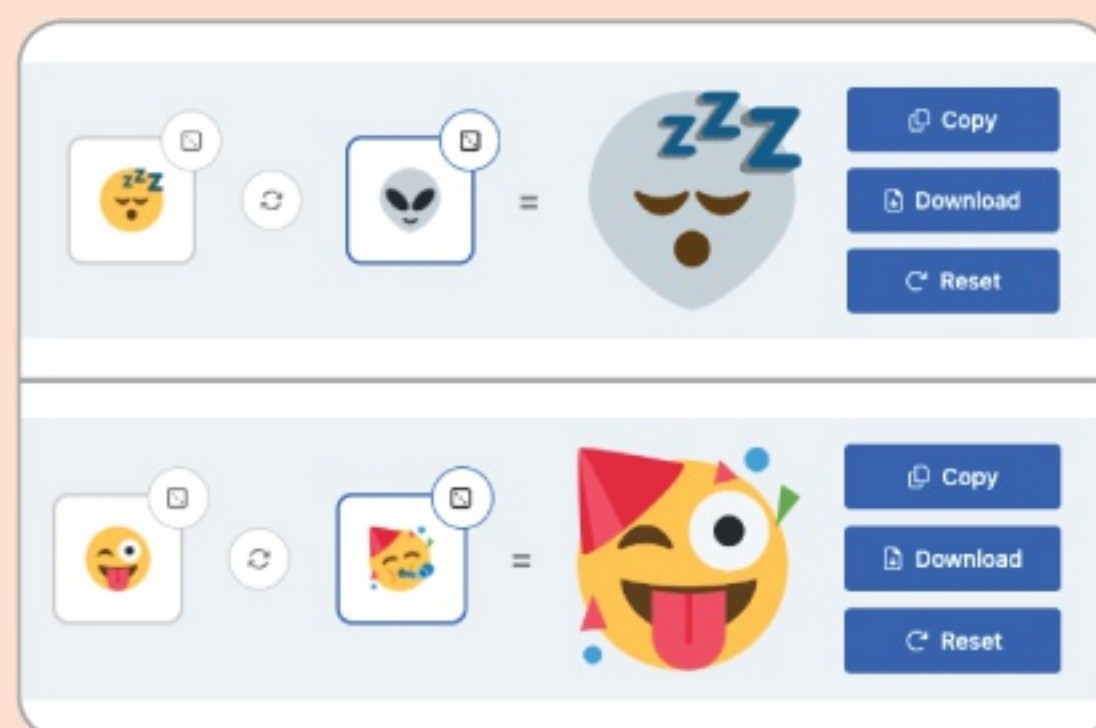
SHARK WEEK: THE PODCAST

Major podcast platforms

This series comes from the Discovery Channel, which airs Shark Week every summer. Listen in as host Luke Tipple interviews guests such as marine biologists and photographers to understand the traits of different shark species and how climate change and humans affect their natural habitats.



WEBSITE OF THE WEEK



EMOJI MASHUP BOT

emojipedia.org/emoji-mashup

Use this fun new tool to create the perfect blend of emojis to express your feelings. Simply choose two existing emojis and the bot will combine them to make a new one, such as a sleeping alien (see above). You can copy and paste your emoji into a message or download it as an image.



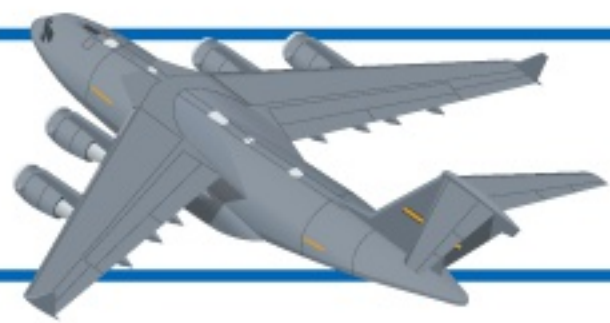
APP OF THE WEEK

MY TALKING HANK: ISLANDS

Apple App Store, Google Play

Hank the dog is the star of the newest edition of the popular pet simulation game series that includes the cat-focused My Talking Tom and My Talking Angela. You'll look after Hank while also exploring an island where you can give a lion a haircut and go on a recycling adventure with a turtle.





Book club



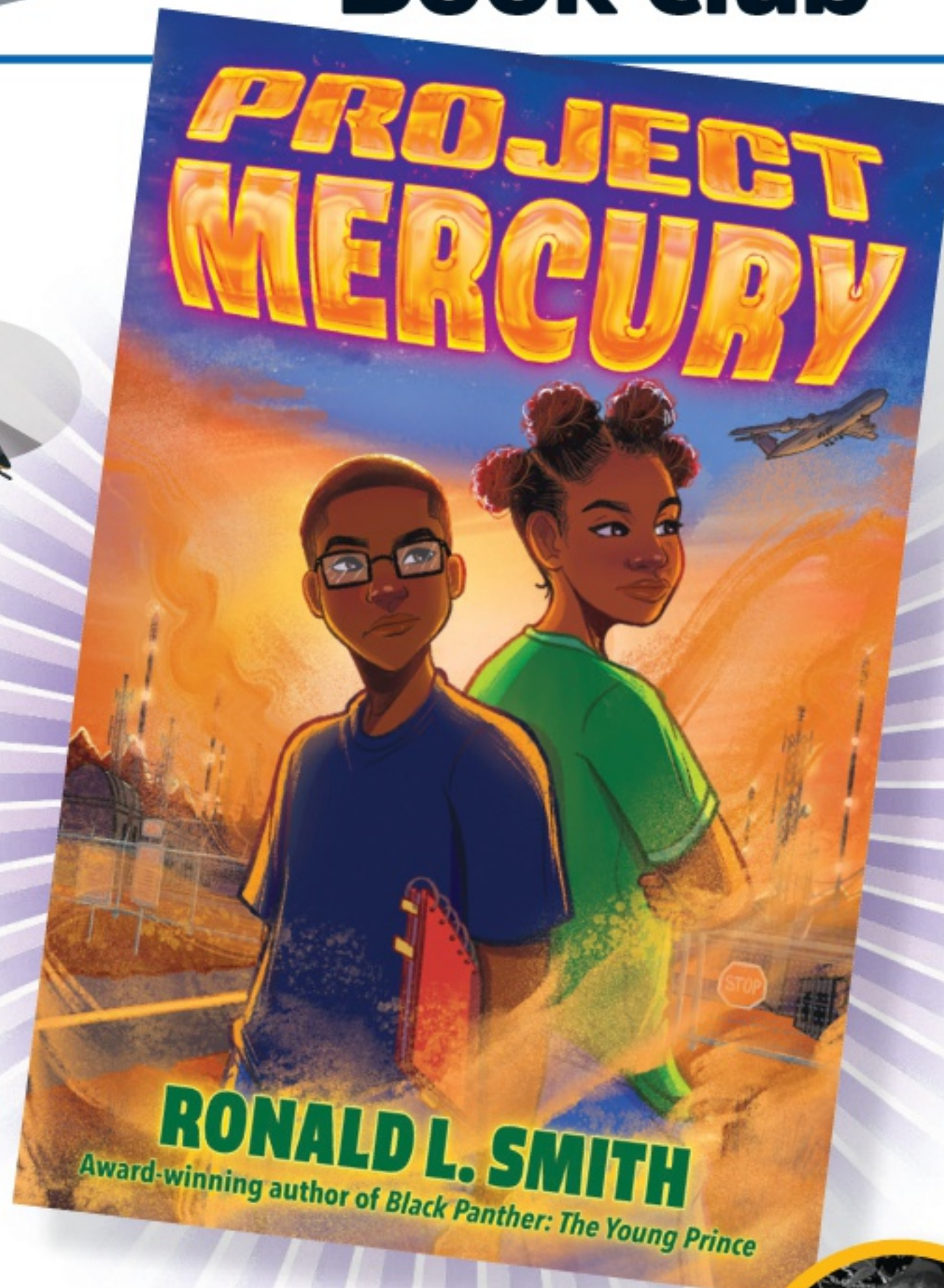
BOOK OF THE WEEK

Project Mercury

By Ronald L. Smith

(Clarion Books)

Teenagers Ike and Eesha are on a mission to find out if aliens really exist. With their families, they have both moved to an Army base in Mercury, Nevada. The base is near Area 51, which is known for alien sightings. When Ike's mom asks him to go through boxes that need unpacking in the basement, he discovers an old radio that is transmitting music and a strange code. Ike and Eesha try to crack the code, but it's difficult. Meanwhile, Ike's mom, who has a new assignment with the Army, is acting distracted and suspicious. A few days later, Ike, Eesha, and Eesha's younger twin siblings explore a spot where Ike once saw strange footprints. Before they are chased away by guards, the twins come across a round object with mysterious equations on it. When Ike and Eesha return to the site, the round object starts glowing. Who it belongs to—and what it has to do with Ike's mom—may blow your mind. Full of twists, this time-traveling science-fiction adventure contains many military references. You may also like how Ike and Eesha's friendship grows throughout the book. The ending leaves room for a possible sequel.



ASK THE AUTHOR

Ronald L. Smith

We spoke to the author of the Book of the Week.

Did you and your family move around a lot?

Yes, my dad was in the Air Force and we lived in many places. I'd make friends, and then we'd move again. It was hard. But when I look back on it, I'm glad I was able to see so much of the world.



What do you hope kids take away from this book?

That family is important and that even if you argue or get mad, you can always find a way to help one another.

Do you enjoy writing middle-grade books?

Yes, it makes me feel like I am a kid again.

Were you interested in space as a child?

I don't remember thinking about it, but I did love books by Ray Bradbury. He wrote a lot of stories about space.

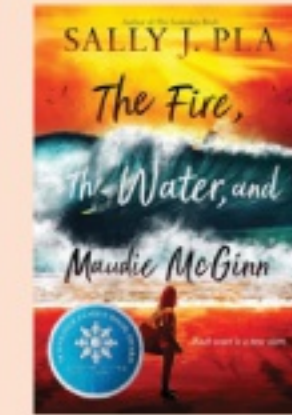
Where would you go if you could time travel?

I think I'd like to travel to ancient Egypt to hear the language and taste the food.



4 books that take place at the beach

Surf, sand, action! These page-turners are full of mystery and adventure.



The Fire, the Water, and Maudie McGinn

By Sally J. Pla

(Quill Tree Books)

Maudie, who has autism, is spending the summer with her dad in a beach town. She wants to tell him about how her mom and stepfather mistreat her. Her confidence grows when she learns to surf. Will she finally reveal her secret? *Ages 10 and up*



Saltwater Secrets

By Cindy Callaghan

(Aladdin)

On their annual beach vacation in New Jersey, half-sisters Stella and Josie discover that the popular new smoothie shop on the boardwalk may be connected to strange occurrences taking place. For example, dead jellyfish are washing up on the beach. Will they be able to unravel the mystery? *Ages 8–12*



Whale Done

By Stuart Gibbs

(Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)

When friends Teddy and Summer are on vacation in Malibu, California, they learn that a whale has died on the beach. As they investigate what happened, many twists occur along the way. This book is the eighth in the popular FunJungle series, but you can read them in any order. *Ages 8 and up*



Wind Riders: Rescue on Turtle Beach

By Jen Marlin, illustrated by Izzy Burton

(HarperCollins)

New friends Max and Sofia help a seagull that's caught in a fishing line. After untangling it, they explore a sailboat. The boat turns out to be magical and guides them to a beach to rescue baby sea turtles. This illustrated story is the first in a four-book series. *Ages 6–10*



READER RECOMMENDS

Rules By Cynthia Lord

"This novel is about a 12-year-old girl named Catherine who longs for a normal life. Through her brother David, who has autism, she meets Jason, a teenager who is in a wheelchair and can't speak. While struggling with her own social life, Catherine helps Jason become more independent and engaged. I love this novel because wherever Catherine walks, she cheers people up." Ella, 10, Pennsylvania

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.





How to...

RIGHT ON!

About 90% of shells are "dextral," which means they open to the right.



Paint shells to keep or share

Summer is the perfect time to try this creative and social activity.

Painting seashells is a fun activity to do in the summer. Many people paint seashells to express themselves creatively. They also use them to connect with others by leaving them in places for people to find. Some people also paint seashells to sell so they can raise money for an important cause. Here is how you can get started painting seashells.

Collect shells. Inside the US and abroad, local regulations can vary, so first be sure any shells you find are OK to take and to leave behind later. You can pick up shells at the shoreline. A good time to look is during low tide. Remember that shells are animals' homes, so be sure the shells are empty! If you don't live near a beach, you can find shells at a craft store.

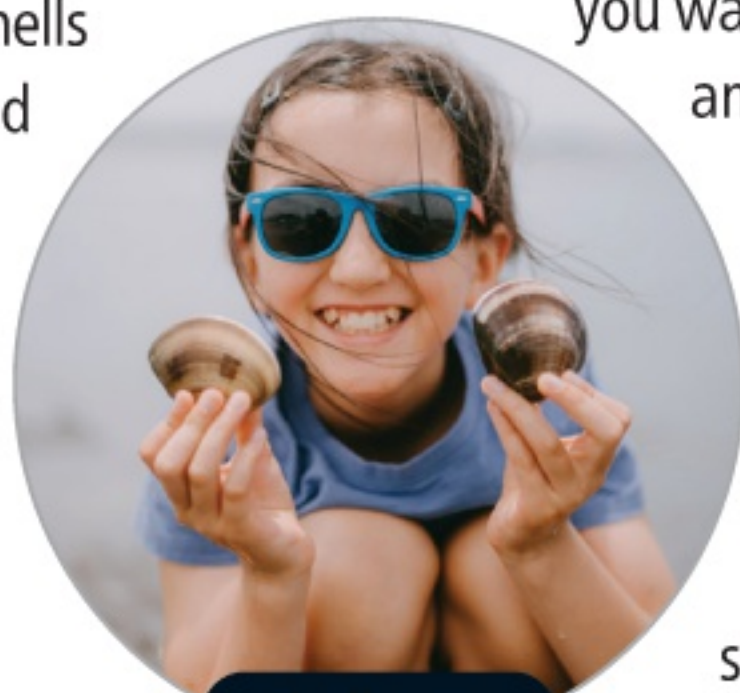
Set up a workspace. With an adult's supervision, pick a spot to paint. Put newspapers or an old tablecloth or towel down on your work surface, and gather the materials you need, such as paintbrushes, paint, and shells.

Clean and prep shells. First, wash your shells thoroughly. Rinse them in a bucket of warm, soapy water, and use an old toothbrush to scrub them clean.

Allow them to dry completely, then start painting with a white "base" coat: Paint the entire top side of the shell by either brushing on gesso or coating the shell's exterior with spray paint in flat white. Let the shells dry.

Decide on your design. A good method for beginners is to brush on your design with acrylic paints or use acrylic paint pens. You could paint a rainbow, an ocean scene, your pet, or an abstract pattern. If you want to protect your design from flaking and fading from the sun, top it with a UV-resistant clear gloss spray. Allow your painted shells to dry completely.

Make a plan for your shells. Now you can choose to keep your shells or hide them for people to find. If you keep them, see some ideas for displaying them in the box at right. If you want to hide them, consider writing a brief message on the back of the shell suggesting that the finder either keep it or hide it again for someone else to discover. (Don't share personal details like your name or contact information.) Put shells in a public space where they're likely to be seen, such as on a park bench. With an adult's supervision, you could also set up a stand in your neighborhood to sell your shells and donate profits to a charity of your choice.



Shells are your canvas!



3 ways to display shells

Bowl or vase A simple and attractive way to store and display your shells is in a glass bowl or vase. Place it on a table or somewhere in your room where you can admire it.

Picture frame Using a toothpick and a clear craft adhesive glue, you can attach shells (painted or not!) around a plain wood picture frame. You can fill in any gaps between shells with even smaller shells. Continue the theme by placing a summery photo inside.

Shadow box Look for a "top-loading" shadow box at a craft store. Deposit your shells through the slot in the top. You can add to your colorful collection as you paint more shells.



FOOD FAVORITE

The average American eats about nine pounds of pickles per year.

WARNING!

Ask an adult's permission before using the stove.

Make your own batch of pickles

Ingredients

For the brine

- 3 cups vinegar
- 3 cups water
- 2½ tablespoons kosher salt
- 1 tablespoon granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons mustard seed
- 1 tablespoon black peppercorns

For the pickles

- 1 large red onion, halved and thinly sliced
- 4 to 5 Persian cucumbers, quartered lengthwise
- 8 ounces radishes, trimmed and sliced into coins
- 8 ounces French green beans
- 4 cloves garlic, smashed
- Sprigs fresh dill

Instructions

1. Make the brine: Combine the vinegar, water, salt, sugar, mustard seed, and black peppercorns in a large saucepan and bring to a simmer. Stir until the salt and sugar have fully dissolved. Set brine aside and let cool.
2. Pack each of the prepared vegetables in a separate wide-mouth pint jar with a smashed garlic clove and dill sprigs.
3. When the brine has completely cooled, divide it among the jars, fully

covering the vegetables. Cover the jars and refrigerate overnight to allow to cure (become pickled). You can keep pickles up to 3–4 weeks.

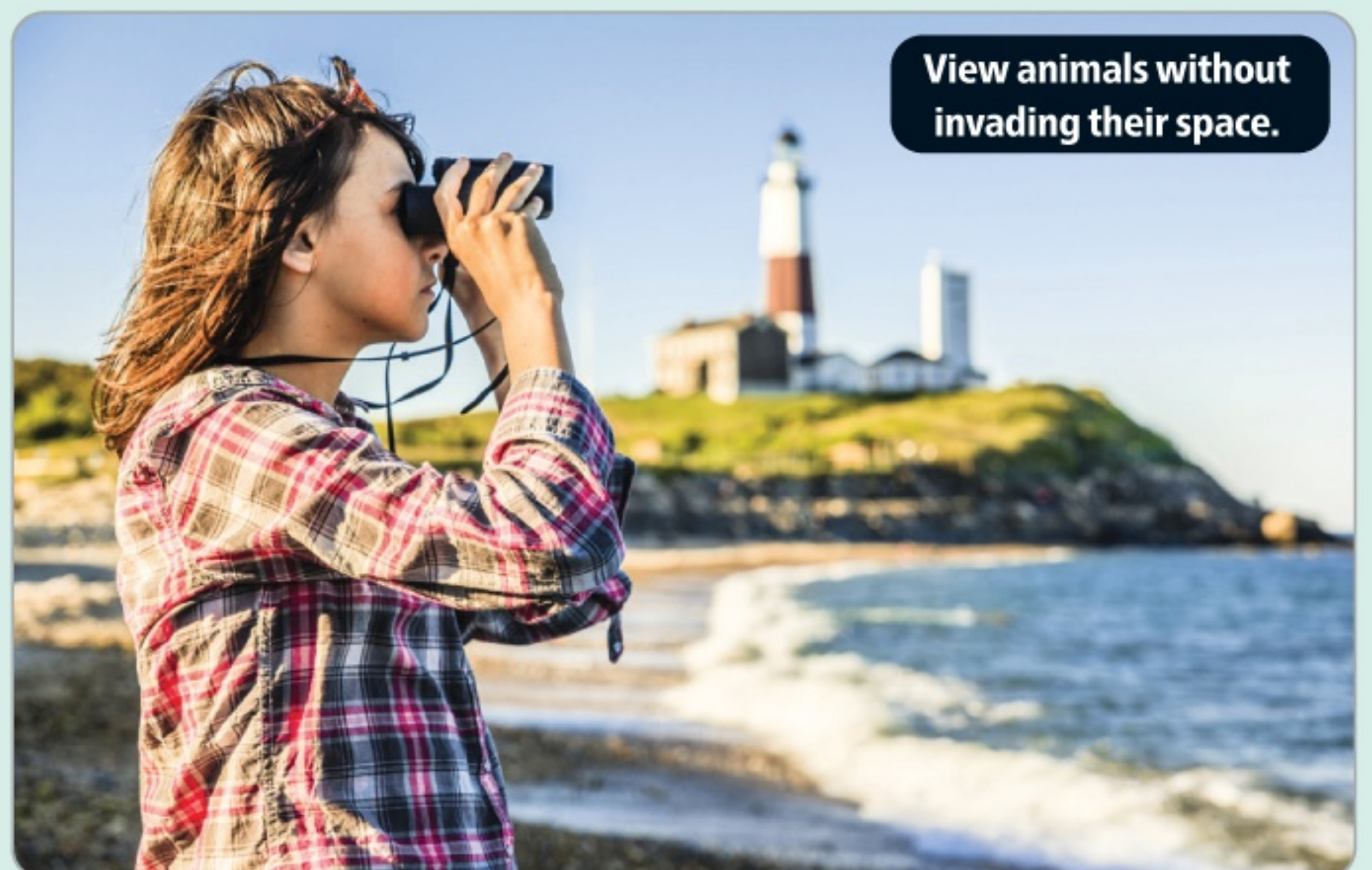
Tip The radish and red onion pickles make excellent sandwich, taco, and salad toppers. The cucumber and bean pickles are great for snacking straight from the jar!



ECO TIP OF THE WEEK

WATCH WILDLIFE MORE SAFELY

Summer is a great time to be outside and see wildlife in nature. It's important to respect wild animals' space because getting too close can feel threatening to them. That can also be harmful to you because animals that feel threatened can become aggressive and choose to defend themselves. Rather than approach animals, choose a spot to sit and observe them. If you're in a car with your family and see an animal like a turtle or a deer on the side of the road, stay inside to watch quietly. A pair of binoculars can also help you be a watcher of wildlife, from birds to marine life, while keeping a safe distance.



View animals without invading their space.



Puzzles



Word ladder

To change the word HOME into the word TURF, use each clue to fill in a word that is only one letter different from the word before it. If you get stuck, try solving from the bottom up.



"___ and get it!" (phrase that might mean "Dinner's ready!")

Part of an apple containing the seeds

It pops out of a champagne bottle on New Year's Eve

Perform a job-related task

Like an old hand-me-down jacket

Having a rip

Make a left or a right

H O M E

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

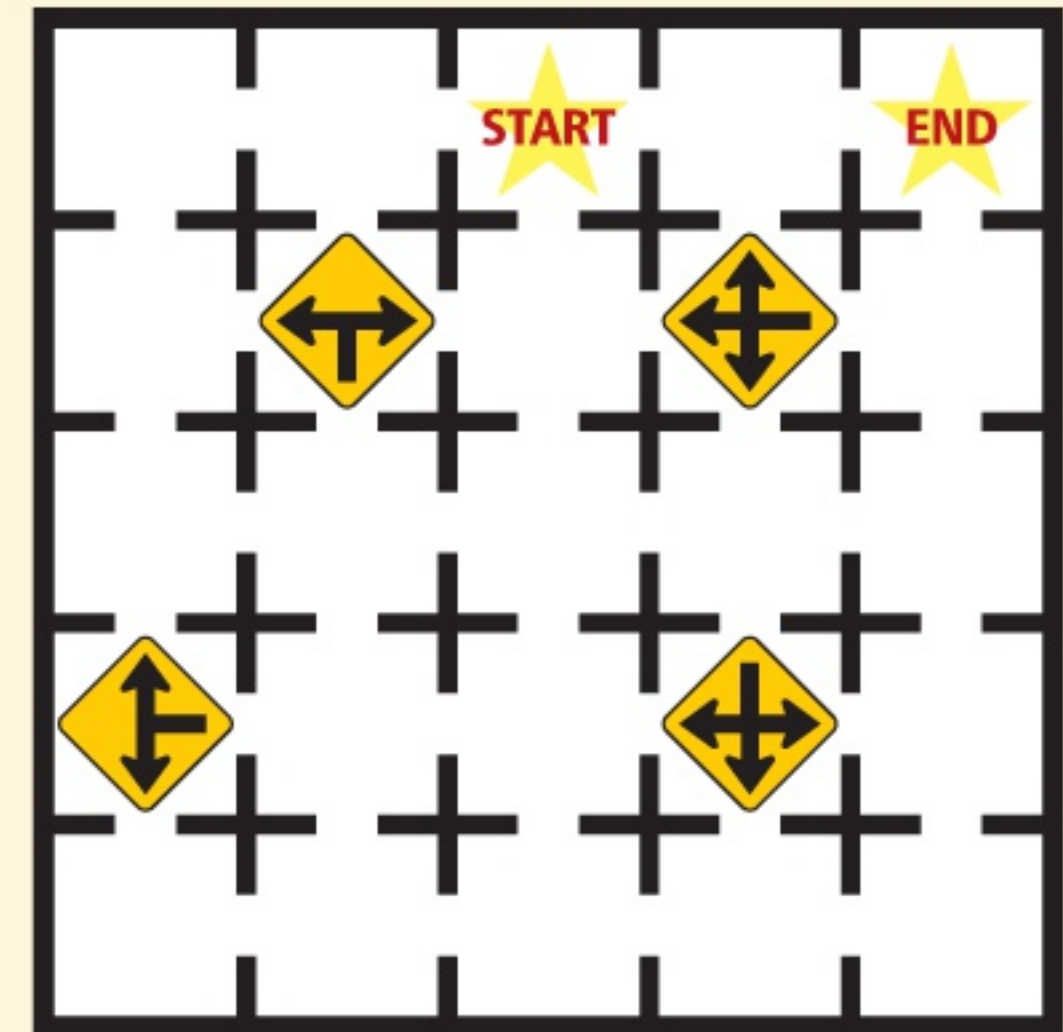
□ □ □ □

□ □ □ □

T U R F

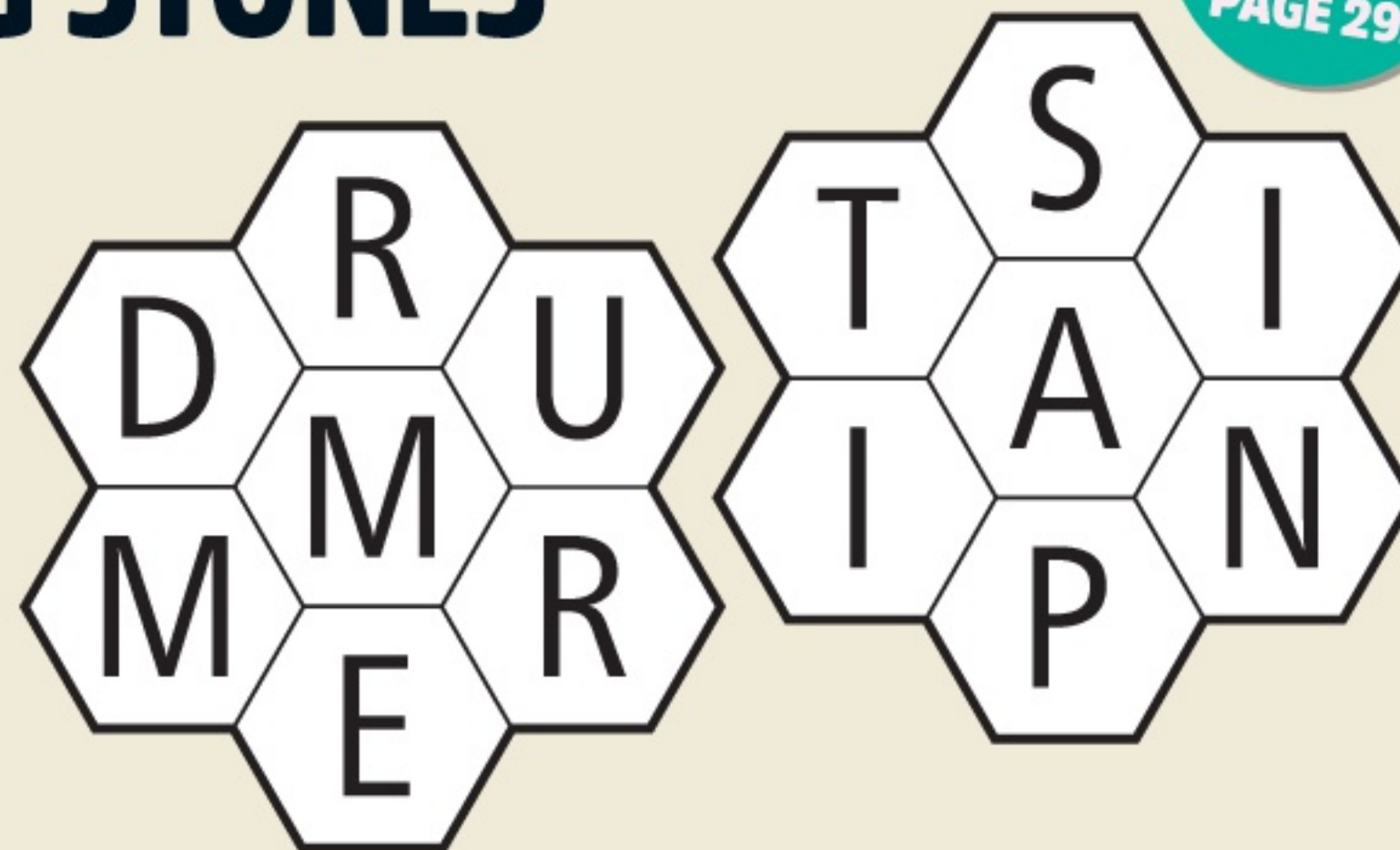
DETOURS

Draw one continuous path from START to END that goes through every single square without crossing itself. For squares with signs, you may only enter at the arrow's base, and you may only make a turn in the direction of an arrow shown.



STEPPING STONES

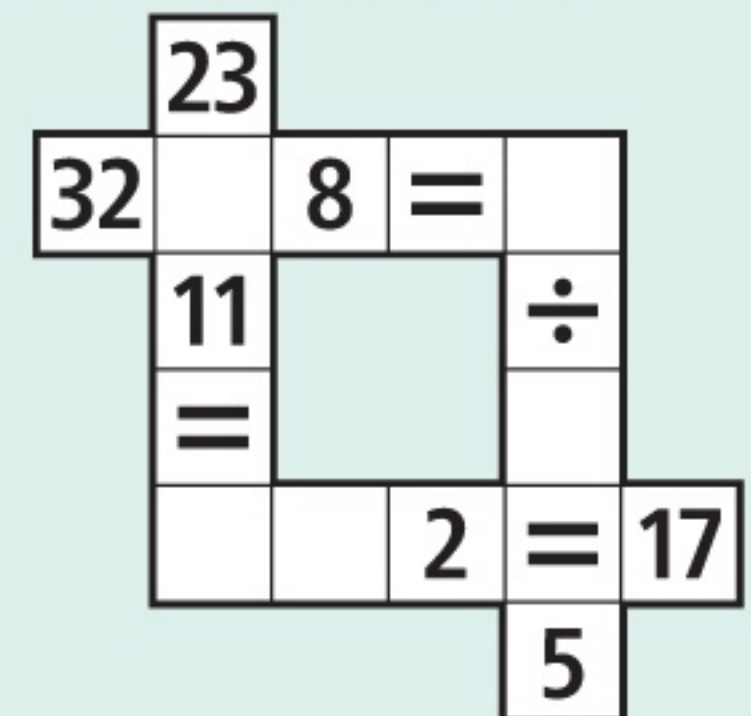
Each figure hides a seven-letter type of musician. To find each one, start anywhere and move in an unbroken path through letters that share a border (no jumping!), using each letter once. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)



ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

Crossmath

Fill each empty box with a number or a mathematical symbol (+, -, ×, or ÷) to complete the equations across and down. A symbol can be used more than once.



Spot the difference

These two pictures of a relay race appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?





The art of falling down

On July 20, a dazzling display of more than 100,000 dominoes toppled over at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC. The installation was created by domino artist Lily Hevesh, who began her craft at age 9. Hevesh and her team spent 10 days placing tiles in the 50-by-50-foot design, knowing a millimeter of difference could cause a domino disaster. She also built a 33-foot tower, breaking the world record for the tallest domino structure. But she said her favorite part was the final collapse, when "the real beauty of domino art comes out."



Snails race for the prize

Last month, 200 of the world's fastest-moving mollusks slid to a village in the UK to compete in the annual Snail Racing World Championships. "Snail master" Nicholas Dickinson shouted, "Ready, steady, SLOW!" and off the snails went. To win, they had to race from the center of a circular 13-inch course to the finish line at the edge, and the speediest snail won a "very juicy" bunch of lettuce. The 2024 champion was Jeff, with a time of 4 minutes and 5 seconds. Jeff's owner, Simon Lilley, said he followed a "rigorous training program" and a diet with "plenty of nice green leaves."



Dog plays games for charity

Gamer James Stephens realized his Shiba Inu, Peanut Butter, was special. Peanut Butter was so good at following commands that he even learned to use a custom controller. "He shouldn't be playing video games," Stephens said. "And yet, he can do it, and he's really good at it." This summer, a charity event put Peanut Butter's prowess to the test. As hundreds of fans chanted "Who's a good boy?" the pup sped through a baseball video game, winning with a virtual home run. Stephens said, "It was the best moment of my life."



Hello Kitty's secret identity

On the 50th anniversary of the cartoon character Hello Kitty, the world received some surprising news. Despite her name and cat-like appearance, the beloved character is not a cat. According to Sanrio, the company that created Hello Kitty, she is actually a mouse. While some fans welcomed the news of the character's true identity, others were outraged. "All this time I've been obsessed with a rodent?!" said one commenter. Sanrio officials assured fans that Hello Kitty is a sweet and tidy mouse and "a friend" to all. Is this story squeaky clean, or do you smell a rat?*

*Fake! Sanrio actually declared that Hello Kitty is "a little girl." According to company officials, she was raised in the suburbs of London, England, and stands "five apples" tall. Hello Kitty seems to like felines, however — she even has a pet cat.



Your turn

Editor's note

"I feel that I was put on this planet with a mission." Those are the words of pioneering animal behavior scientist Jane Goodall, spoken around the time of her 90th birthday earlier this year (p12). We certainly agree! Her mission since she dreamed at a young age of living in Africa has been to spend time among animals, learn about them, and share her knowledge with the world. She did that for nearly 65 years, making groundbreaking discoveries about chimpanzees, founding a research center to inspire others to study primates, and becoming an activist focused on, as she said, speaking out "for those who can't speak for themselves." I hope you enjoy learning about her incredible life in this week's issue. And don't miss our second week of coverage of the Summer Olympics in Paris (p5 and p18). The sports action—and the sportsmanship—have been spectacular!

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief



Protecting nature's pollinators

“We produce and sell eco-friendly terrariums for monarch butterflies to grow in. We started Pulelehua Collective (*pulelehua* is Hawaiian for butterfly) after we entered a business plan competition. While writing our plan, we discovered there had been a significant decline in monarch butterfly populations in the past few years due to habitat loss and pesticides. By raising non-migratory monarch butterflies found here in Hawaii and allowing them to emerge and be released into nature from our terrariums, we are hoping to increase the number of surviving butterflies. We have had several pop-up sales in our community, made more than \$5,000, and donated \$400 to local nonprofit groups that do reforestation and environmental education.”



Hugh, 10 (right), and Elliott, 11, Hawaii

RIDDLE OF THE WEEK
What runs around the playground without taking a step?
A fence

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at hello@theweekjunior.com.



EARTH HELPERS



Adele, who is 11 years old and from Maine, told us she wants to walk or bike to places, instead of using a car, to help the planet. She hopes that more buildings will have lights that automatically turn off when they're not needed to reduce electricity use. If you'd like to share your ideas for protecting the Earth, go to kids.theweekjunior.com/activities to print out a form, like the one at right. After you fill it out with your ideas and a drawing, have an adult email it to us hello@theweekjunior.com. We'll feature some of the submissions we receive on this page in future issues.

How I'll help the Earth

Use this form to organize your thoughts about ways you and others can protect the planet. Then ask an adult to email it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find extra forms at kids.theweekjunior.com/activities.

First name Adele Age 11 State Maine

In honor of Earth Day, how will you pledge to help the planet?
I want to help the planet by walking or biking places. Also when I am older I will try to take public transportation and not my own vehicle to help limit the gas in the atmosphere.

What is your hope for the Earth five years from now?
My hope is that more places will have lights that automatically turn off when there is no one inside so we use less electricity.

Draw a picture of what taking care of the Earth looks like to you.



CHARITY OF THE WEEK



International Elephant Foundation

This organization's goal is to protect elephants in the wild. It funds elephant conservation programs in Asia and Africa that work to stop illegal hunting, remove traps laid to catch animals, and reduce conflict among communities. Since its founding in 1999, the group has protected more than 35,000 elephants. Find out more at elephantconservation.org.



THE WEEK
Junior

IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.



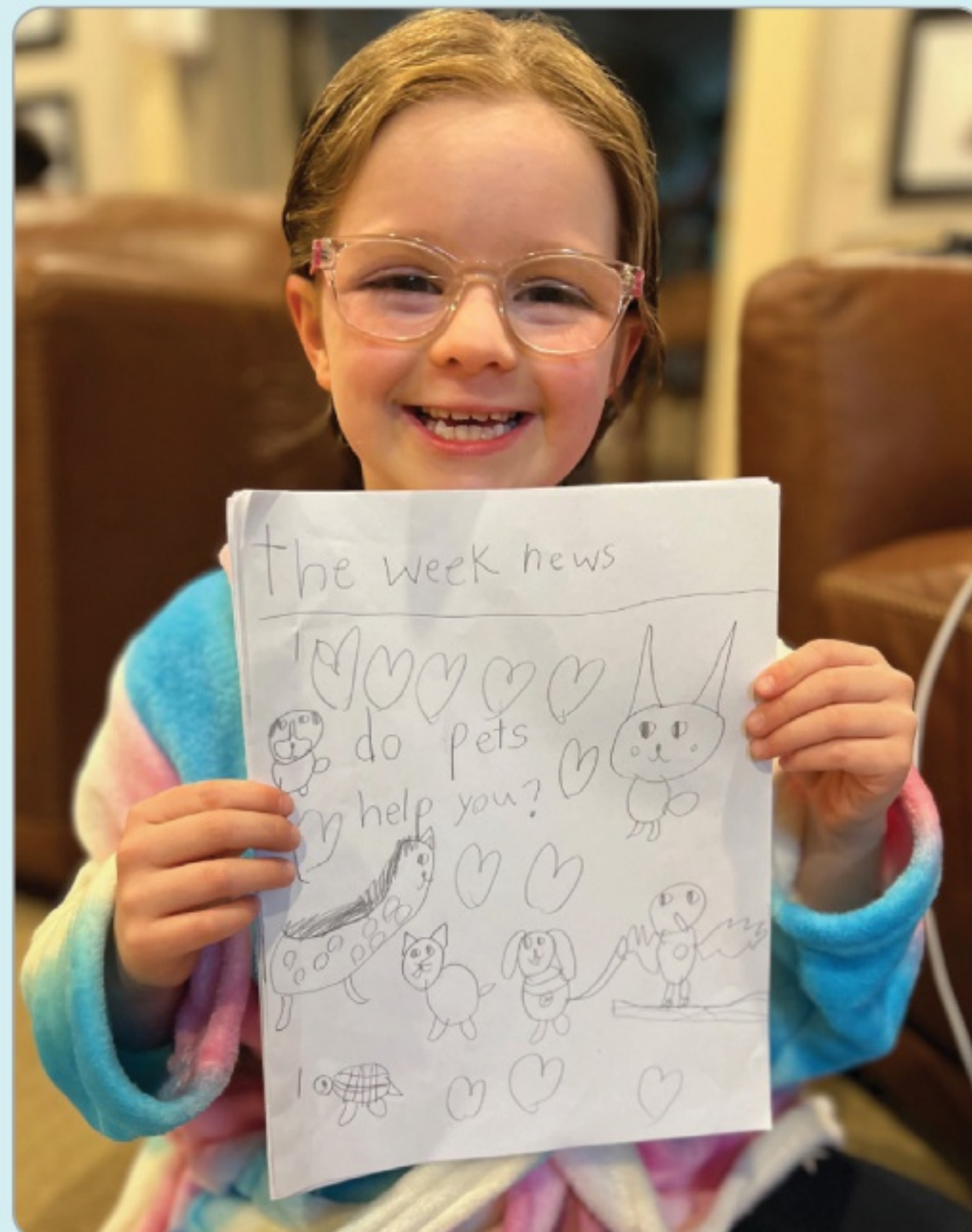
YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at hello@theweekjunior.com, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.



"Even though we are twins, we have different opinions about how to eat ice cream!" Kjersten, 9, and Annika, 9, Minnesota

"I was inspired by *The Week Junior* to grow my own vegetable garden." Shlok, 12, Georgia



"*The Week Junior* helped me make my own magazine!" Selah, 8, Washington



Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Mrs. Banas**

School: **Saint Katharine Drexel School**

"Mrs. Banas is a great teacher because she cares about us and our opinions. She is funny and always takes time to get to know us. She won't hesitate to help us if we need it. She is always encouraging us to try our best, no matter what. She makes us feel so safe and comfortable around her. Mrs. Banas is my most favorite teacher ever!"

Julia, 11, Pennsylvania

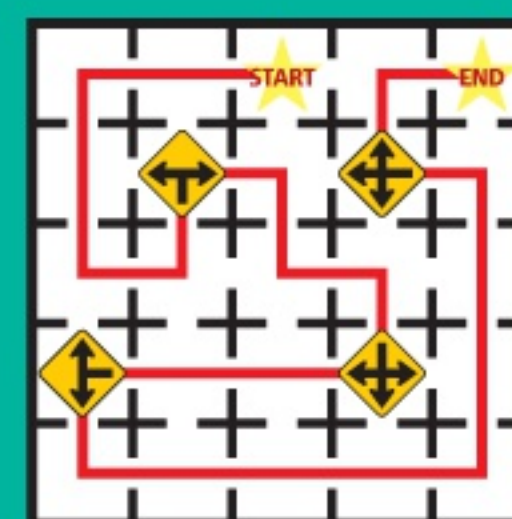
Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!
Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to hello@theweekjunior.com.



Puzzle answers (from page 26)

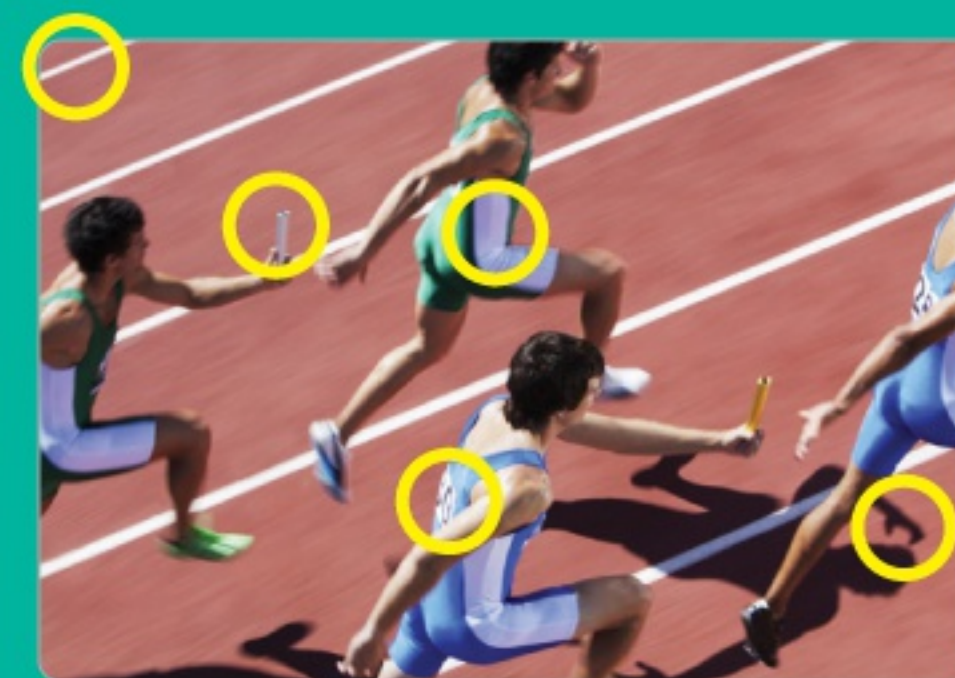
Word ladder

h	o	m	e
c	o	m	e
c	o	r	e
c	o	r	k
w	o	r	k
w	o	r	n
t	o	r	n
t	u	r	n
t	u	r	f



Stepping stones
drummer, pianist

23				
32	+	8	=	40
11			÷	
=				8
34	÷	2	=	17
				5



Quiz answers (from page 30)

1 b) Fox 2 True 3 a) Sandy Cheeks 4 25 5 c) 14 6 False. It is known as a singing lemur.
7 b) Army 8 Moai 9 c) Vanuatu 10 True 11 Seven 12 False. It is based on a book by S. E. Hinton. 13 Mr. H 14 a) Tim Walz 15 a) Dominoes

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.



Quiz

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 In the video game Bō: Path of the Teal Lotus, Bō is a spirit creature similar to what animal?

a) Kangaroo b) Fox c) Rabbit

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

2 True or false? Johnny Cash is the first professional musician to receive a statue at the US Capitol.

True ☐ False ☐

3 Which *SpongeBob SquarePants* character is the star of a new film?

a) Sandy Cheeks b) Gary the Snail

c) Squidward

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

4 How many tons of recycled wood did artist Thomas Dambo use to sculpt five giant trolls?

5 How many Olympic medals has swimmer Katie Ledecky won?

a) 9 b) 11 c) 14

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

6 True or false? A type of lemur called an indri is also known as a crying lemur.

True ☐ False ☐

7 In the book *Project Mercury*, Ike's mother serves in which branch of the military?

a) Air Force b) Army c) Navy

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

8 What are the massive statues on the island of Rapa Nui called?



9 A report found that plastic pollution decreased significantly after a ban was enacted in which country?

a) Peru b) Tuvalu c) Vanuatu

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

10 True or false? Scientists who developed a new method to attach artificial skin to a robot were inspired by human ligaments.

True ☐ False ☐

11 How many consecutive Women's Baseball World Cup titles has Japan won?

12 True or false? The Broadway musical *The Outsiders* is based on a book written by Lois Lowry.

True ☐ False ☐

13 What is the name of the stuffed animal that has accompanied scientist Jane Goodall to more than 60 countries?

14 Who did Kamala Harris choose as the Vice Presidential nominee on the Democratic ticket?

a) Tim Walz b) Mark Kelly

c) Josh Shapiro

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

15 Lily Hevesh set a world record by creating the tallest structure made out of what?

a) Dominoes b) Toothpicks c) Legos

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 29.

THE WEEK Junior

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ON THE HUNT

Kingfishers, which are found worldwide, dive dramatically into water for fish, insects, and other prey, then use their long, sharp beaks to catch them.